

Hebrews

JESUS IS  
GRE>TER





# Impossible Without Faith

HEBREWS 11

JESUS IS GRE>TER

**Psalm**  
**23**

**2nd**  
**Corinthians**  
**4**

**1st**  
**Corinthians**  
**13**

**Romans**  
**8**

**Hebrews**  
**11**



Hebrews  
11

A “stand alone”  
chapter illustrating  
Hebrews 10:39—

“But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.”

- Faith has ALWAYS been the way of life that God calls us to.
- This chapter defines for us exactly what faith is...  
with multiple illustrations.

Hebrews 11:6

“Without faith it is  
impossible to please God.”

We better get this  
one right!

Hebrews 11:1

**“Now faith is confidence  
in what we hope for and  
assurance about what we  
do not see.”**

# What faith is NOT—

- Not simply a pretty name.
- Not just a word in the title of a church.
- It's not like justice—blind.

Faith is all about examining evidence and making an informed decision.

*“Faith is the reality of things hoped for, the proof of things not being seen.”*

The certainty  
of things past

**Faith**

The reality of  
things hoped for



**We look back with confidence...**



**We look forward with hope.**

Based upon God's character  
and what we've already  
seen Him do—we can make  
plans for the future.

Faith is NOT blind.

We live by faith every single day.

Hebrews 11 gives us  
39 verses and 16 people to  
**SHOW** this is true.

**Hebrews 11 gives us  
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SHOW this is true.**

- **By faith Abel (11:4)**
- **By faith Enoch (11:5)**
- **By faith Abraham (11:8)**
- **By faith Jacob (11:21)**
- **By faith Joseph (11:22)**
- **By faith Moses (11:23)**

# ***This is not a random list...***

## **Pre-Flood Era (4-7)**

- Abel, Enoch, Noah

## **Patriarchal Era (8-22)**

- Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph

## **Mosaic Era (23-31)**

- Moses, Israelites, Rahab

## **Era of Judges & Kings (32-34)**

- Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel

## **Martyrs (35-40)**

- John the Baptist, Stephen, James, etc.

These people are carefully chosen  
to point out qualities of faith.

1) In every one of these stories...

Faith ACTS.

Faith does something.

*"Faithing it..."*

# Action Verb Chart

- Abel offered
- Noah constructed
- Abraham obeyed & went
- Isaac invoked blessing
- Jacob worshiped
- Joseph spoke
- Moses parents hid him
- The people marched
- Rahab welcomed

# Action Verb Chart

- Conquered
- Administered
- Shut
  - Escaped
  - Prayed
- Enforced
- Gained
- Quenched
- Routed
- Etc...

In every case, faith acts.

Faith demonstrates an obedient response.

Faith motivates us to do something.

2) Faith does not act blindly.

*Faith evaluates. It weighs the possibilities. It takes the alternatives—and considered them. It examines the evidence. And only then does it make a decision.*

Noah was warned about a coming flood,  
and built an ark. (7)

Abraham and Sarah acted in faith  
because they considered God faithful who  
had made the promise. (11)

Moses parents hid him in spite of the  
consequences of the king's edict. (23)

Moses acted faithfully because he "saw  
Him who is invisible." (24-27)

Even when it seems like it's a stretch. Even when it seems impossible. We act based on who we know God to be.

3) Faith anticipates.

*"I'm going to do this because I realize that something is going to happen in return."*

There is a promise. There is a blessing  
there is a reward if I act in faith.

*Abraham was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. (10)*

*Some were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. (35)*

*“God has planned something better for us...” (40)*

No matter how difficult life  
is today—

we know that God has made  
promises to us, and He is faithful.

He will keep His promise.

This is hope.

4) Faith often sacrifices the present advantage to gain the future.

*This isn't just a quality of faith...*

*it's a quality of maturity.*

*The principle of delayed gratification.*

*Faith sacrifices for the future.*

## vv. 8-10

*“<sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. <sup>9</sup> By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup> For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.”*

v. 13

*“<sup>13</sup> All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth.”*

v. 24-25

*"<sup>24</sup>By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.<sup>25</sup> He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin."*

## 5) Faith dares to take risks.

- *Abraham sacrificing Isaac. (Gen 22)*
- *Rahab sheltering the spies. (Joshua 2)*
  - *Daniel in the lions den. (Daniel 6)*
- *Many risked torture, prison, flogging & death. (vv. 36-37)*

## 6) Faith may not be rewarded in this life.

Daniel 3

*“<sup>16</sup>Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him,  
“King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend  
ourselves before you in this matter.<sup>17</sup>If we are thrown  
into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to  
deliver us from it, and He will deliver us from Your  
Majesty’s hand. <sup>18</sup>But even if He does not, we want you  
to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods  
or worship the image of gold you have set up.”*

Faith acts—but not blindly.

Faith anticipates—often  
sacrificing the present advantage  
to gain the future.

Faith dares to take risks—even when  
it's not rewarded in this life.

**Hebrews 11:39**

**“These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised...”**

**What is God’s greatest promise?**

What is God's greatest promise?

Jesus is greater.

**One final point...**

**Hebrews 11:29**

***“By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.”***

One final point...

Just because you're surrounded by the faithful—or are following the faithful at a distance—it doesn't mean that you ARE the faithful.

Faith is a journey we must walk ourselves.









**Hebrews 11:1**

**“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”**

**We look back with confidence...**



**We look forward with hope.**