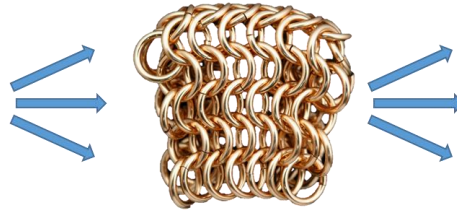


LESSON 4 – Hall of Faith

Old Testament

- Genesis
 - God Created
 - God Spoke
 - Abrahamic Covenant
- Exodus
 - Moses – Prophet
 - Mt. Zion Giving of Law
 - Desert
- Leviticus
 - Tabernacle
 - Levitical Priesthood
 - OT Covenant Rituals
- Joshua
 - Entering promised land
- David
 - Kingship/Rule
- Jeremiah
 - New Covenant
- All the many stories of the OT



LUKE 24:13-35
Road To Emmaus

Acts 2 – Peter
Acts 7- Stephen
Acts 13:15 – Paul
Paul uses OT to Exhort

New Testament

- Jesus was God
- Jesus Created with God
- Jesus is the Greatest Word of God
- Jesus paid for sins
- Jesus now rules with God as His Son and our Savior
- Jesus is greater than prophets
- Jesus is greater than Angels
- Jesus is greater than Moses
- Jesus is greater than OT priests
- Jesus is a greater sacrifice
- Jesus offers a greater Rest than the promised land
- Jesus had a greater priestly calling than Aaron
- Jesus fulfills the Abrahamic covenant
- Jesus is a greater High Priest than Levitical High Priest
- Jesus is the guarantee of a better covenant
- Jesus reigns over a better ministry
- Jesus entered a better Tabernacle
- Jesus offers a better inheritance
- Jesus offers a new and living way
- Jesus faith is greater than OT saints
- Jesus is a better father to us in His discipline of us
- Jesus lives in a better kingdom than Mt Sinai

Hebrews 11 Context

1. 2:1 – 4 Pay careful attention.... so that we do not drift away
2. 3:1 – 4:16 Do not harden....no unbelieving heart among you... enter the Sabbath rest.
3. 5:11 – 6:6 **Leave elementary teaching...Go on to maturity...**
4. 10:19 – 39 Let us draw near...hold...consider...remember...don't throw away confidence...

HEBREWS 11 FITS right in between these two exhortations.

5. 12:1 – 29 Let us run...don't grow weary or lose heart when disciplined...make level paths...etc.

CHAPTER 10

- VS 1 For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come ...
- VS 1-18 proving Jesus as one sacrifice for all time
- VS 10:19 – 39 3 parts Positive – Negative – Positive
 - A New and Living way exhortation
 - let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith
 - Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering
 - Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds
 - Not forsaking our own assembling together
 - Encouraging one another all the more



- Warning that falling away yields judgment
 - Fury of fire...severer punishment...vengeance...terrifying to fall into the hands of the living God.
- Encouraging them to remember their past faithfulness and look to press on in faith to the future
 - Remember former days when they endured...do not throw away confidence...do not shrink back to destruction...
- VS 39
 - But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.

CHAPTER 11 Focus on the OT saints and how they persevered by faith in God. READ CHAPTER 11

CHAPTER 12 Therefore since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, Let us...lay aside...run...fix eyes...consider Him...don't grow weary or lose heart when disciplined...make level paths...etc.

Primer on Biblical Faith...

- *Where does faith come from?*
 - From God by grace Eph 2:8-9; Rom 8:29-30; 12:3; I Tim 1:13-14; Philip 1:29
 - Through hearing the word of Christ Rom 10:17
 - By the work of the Holy Spirit John 3:5-6, 14:26, 16:13; Rom 8:10
- *Whose is it after received?*
 - Ours individually...not our parents nor pastors Luke 7:50, Matt 9
- *Is Faith the same as...*
 - Biblical Hope
 - Not the same as...I Corinthians 13:13...but friends. Like Oxygen is a friend of Fire.
 - Biblical Hope is a confident expectation God will in the future fulfill his promises that naturally stems from our faith or trust in God Himself.
 - Feelings
 - Not the same as... Analogy / Train & Caboose...Driving at night
 - But not opposite of... as faith changes our feelings...they are connected somehow.
 - Belief in God
 - Depends on definition of belief.
 - If belief = to consider to be true...then it is not the same.
 - Demons believe in God and shudder (James 2:19).
 - However, we sometimes use the term believe as equivalent because we are attaching an unspoken definition to it which includes trust and love. Again, context for the words used matter.
 - Most Biblical dictionaries call them equivalent for that reason.
- *What is the opposite of Faith?*
 - Works: Yes and No

- Justification by works is opposite of Justification by faith (Sola Fida)...so yes it is opposite in that sense.
- James 2:18 says faith always creates works...so no it is not opposite of works in that sense.
- Reason: No and Yes
 - Faith doesn't exist without knowledge...so it can't be blind nor the opposite of Reason.
 - Romans 10; 12:2; Isaiah 1:18...salvation requires knowledge...faith is born out of knowledge of the Gospel.
 - Faith opposes Human Reason when reason opposes the word of God....parting of red sea...resurrection of Lazarus
- Scientific Certainty: Yes and No
 - Faith is not like 1+1=2 and yet it doesn't ignore the certainty of science when it is indeed certain!
 - Faith is like certainty in the trust of another person and their promises to do something.
- Doubt: Yes and No
 - Romans 14:23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.
 - John Calvin struggled with doubt: "Since salvation is by faith alone, then not sin but doubt of which anxiety is the immediate consequence are the most terrible adversaries of every Christian, even the most faithful."
 - Yet Doubt would not be present unless there was Faith trying to grow. Apathy and indifference would lack any evidence of faith.
- Physical sight: Yes and No
 - 2 Cor 5:7 says we live by faith not by sight...so yes it is opposite
 - 1 John 1:1-4 What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life...so no it is not opposite
- Fear: Yes and No
 - Fear and Faith need objects in order to define them...what or whom do you fear or have faith in?
 - Faith in God requires fear of God...so no it is not opposite in one sense.
 - We are even commanded to fear God.
 - See Dt 10:12-13; Rom 3:18; 1Pe 1:17, 2:17; Mt 10:28; Rev 14:7; Eph 5:21; 2 Cor 5:11, 7:1
 - Faith in God opposes the fear of man/satan/world...so yes it is opposite in this sense.
 - See Mt 10:28; Lu 12:5; He 13:5-6; John 12:41-43
 - Fear and Faith are sort of friends
 - Fear that God will punish our sins (just God ...law and judgment)
 - ... can encourage faith in Jesus through the Gospel (savior from sins...God's love toward us)
 - ... which can produce the Love of God (because he first loved us - I John 4:19)
 - ... which drives out the fear of being punished by God in the first place (I John 4:17-18, Romans 8)!
 - Yet this wisdom started with the fear of God...Prov 9:10
 - We stand by a faith sourced in God so we ought to fear.
 - Romans 10:17 "That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear.
- Keep in mind faith and fear can happen in degrees.
- There is a minimum amount of faith which grants justification yet our faith can still be increased.
 - Luke 7:9 ...found so great a faith!
 - Mark 9:24 ..., "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"
 - Luke 17:5 ..."Increase our faith"
- SEE PASTOR JEFF'S SERMONS ON "THE FEAR OF THE LORD PART 1 & 2 - 1 PETER 1:17 & 18-21"

Hebrews...please help us understand faith!

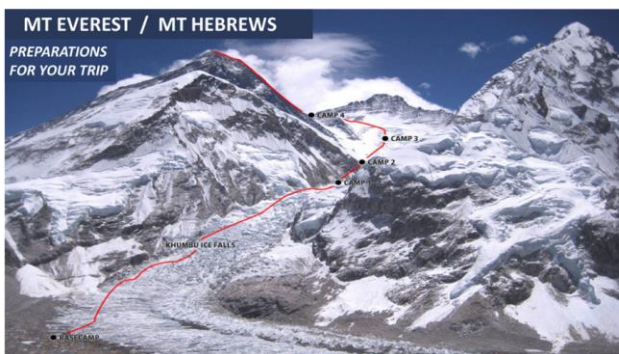
- Faith Definition
 - ¹¹ Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
 - ⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.
 - ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better *country*, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.
 - ³⁹ And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect.
- Christian Faith defined by Hebrews is...
 - Believing that God is.
 - Believing that God will do what he says he will do.
 - Believing that God is good and a rewarder of those who seek Him.
 - Trusting and Taking Joy in Jesus Christ alone
- Faith creates or enables...
 - Works, Desires, Understanding of things not seen, Feelings, Hope, Love...many things.

Let's take a closer look at a Faith Example

Heb 11:23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

Exod 1:22 Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, "Every son who is born you are to cast into the Nile, and every daughter you are to keep alive." Exod 2:1 Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a daughter of Levi. 2 The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was beautiful, she hid him for three months. 3 But when she could hide him no longer, she got him a wicker basket and covered it over with tar and pitch. Then she put the child into it and set it among the reeds by the bank of the Nile. NASB

Study Principle: Slow down and look closer



- Climbing a mountain looks easy from a distance.
- It is when you actually get into the details that things get a bit difficult.

Observations – Taking a closer look

- Were the parents of Moses afraid or not?
 - Clearly they were afraid of something as people don't hide their children if they are not afraid.
- Doesn't faith in God require a lack of fear of man?
 - True and False
 - You can fear man but fear God more...you fight one fear with the other.
 - What were they afraid of?
 - 3 Options to consider.
 1. That Pharaoh would kill their child.
 2. That Pharaoh would kill them for having the child.
 3. That God would hold them accountable for killing their baby.
 - Answer = #1 and #3 for sure.
 - I think all of them could be a right answer...but it must reconcile which is feared most.
- It would seem they were willing to die to obey God and save their baby. The scheme they came up with was their own and could have gone poorly.
- They had no prophecy or visiting by an Angel. They pursued the best path they could find while maintaining their faith in God. This is "WISDOM"...this is what we are to ask for in our daily lives. JAMES 1:5
- 2 Cor 5...We walk by faith and not by sight...We make decisions based on our belief, trust and love of Jesus Christ and not by only our physical understanding as the priority.



Let us test our understanding of this text

- How would this definition of faith apply to the following circumstances:
 - You are pregnant with a daughter in China and they want to abort in favor of a son. What does faith say to do?
 - You are pregnant with your third child in China when there is a 2 child limit. What does faith say to do?
 - You are pregnant with your first child and the doctor says there are complications and you or your child will die if you try to give birth. What does faith say to do?
 - You are a doctor and the hospital is pro choice demanding that all doctors encourage referrals to the nearby abortion clinic. What does faith say to do?
 - You are a pastor going to Africa. Do you take the shots for Hepatitis and Malaria? If you trust God why take the shots?
 - Because God given wisdom doesn't ignore the reality we are put in.
 - Biblical faith believes God has ordained all things...even shots for Hepatitis and Malaria.
- Amazing how relevant God's word from so long ago is to us today!

Chapter 11 – Forest vs Trees

- Each individual example has something to teach us.
- Today, We need to get the forest...you can do the trees yourself.

Note the Author's change in direction

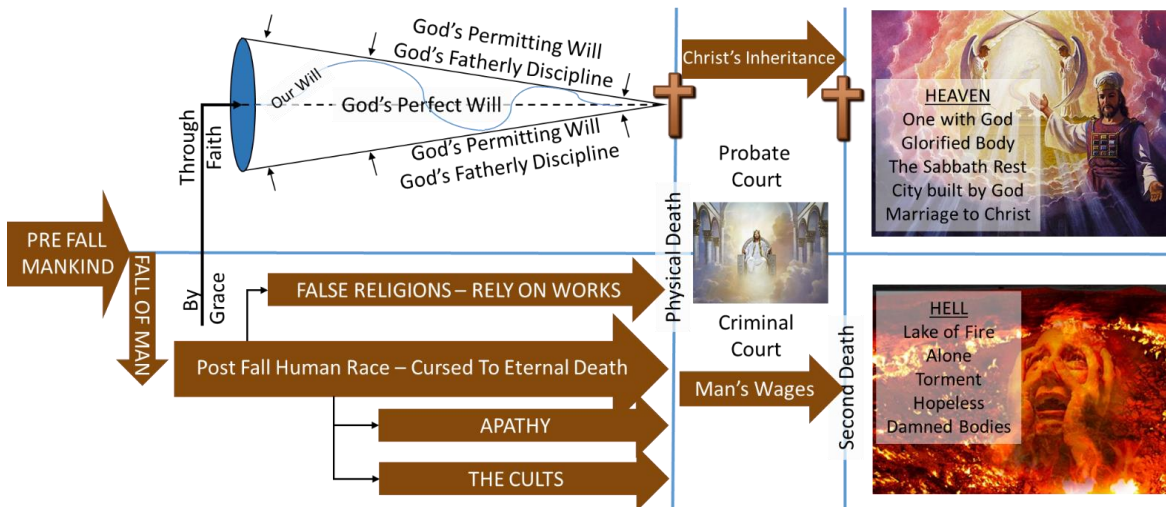
- Notice the abrupt change in Hebrews 11:35b
 - ...and others were tortured, not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection; 36 and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated 38 (men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground.
- What can we conclude about a person's faith when they are not delivered from the trial and it ends in death?
- Why do you think he added these examples?
- What if this isn't a change in the truth he was trying to focus on?
- What does this tell us about his main point?

Big Picture in Hebrews 11

- Isn't Chapter 11 a continuous implied exhortation to heed testimony of OT faithful?
- Who is the real hero in Chapter 11?
- Faith in God always glorifies God even if we suffer and die.
 - God either shows miraculous victory from our trials and suffering
 - Or
 - God shows miraculous victory by helping us endure through our trials and suffering
- God always has a greater purpose in our suffering
- This text says one of the purposes has to do with being joined with the faithful who have gone on ahead of us. Heb 11:39-40
- This author is preparing us to remain faithful and endure suffering and tribulation without losing our Joy in God.
- He is preparing us to endure the reproach of Christ (11:26 & 13:13) and the discipline from God our Father as outlined in Chapter 12.



HEBREWS VIEW OF SALVATION / SANCTIFICATION / DISCIPLESHIP



Cure for the desert death!

What causes one to hear the word and be saved and another “die in the desert never seeing the promised land”? Faith. They didn’t unite the word with faith. Hebrews 3:15-4:7

What did Jesus say the remedy was for the desert curse?

- Jesus lifted up on cross like Moses lifted up the serpent John 3:14-15
- It was faith not magic. Bronze serpent became an idol and had to be destroyed 2 Kings 18:1-4

What must we do in response to this lesson?

So long as we are walking in the desert towards the promised rest...

...Then we must look to the bronze serpent and combine it with faith in God.

So long as it is today...

...Then we must look to the work of Jesus on the cross and combine it with Biblical Faith!

Jude 24-25

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, ²⁵ to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, *be* glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Lay Aside Sin / Fix Eyes on Jesus

Hebrews 12:1-3

1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

LAY ASIDE EVERY **ENCUMBRANCE** & SIN

- Lay aside your Hallmark movie channel addiction.
- Lay aside your excessive NFL addiction...Cubs are ok☺.
- Lay aside your cabin up north every weekend.
- Stop hunting for every animal in every season.

....neutral music, funny but not immoral comedy shows, antique collection...on and on....

...IF THEY ARE PREVENTING YOUR SPIRITUAL RUNNING!

NOTE: This doesn't mean abstain from everything!

FIX YOUR EYES UPON JESUS

- Consider how you can help a struggling marriage or counsel at the pregnancy care center.
- Consider how you can get emotionally involved in a ministry at church.
- Consider how you can get away to be with the Lord.
- Consider how you can become a fisherperson of people.

YOUR RUNNING AFTER JESUS MUST BE **VIGOROUS, WITH ENDURANCE AND WITH JOY!**

Time To Go To The Spiritual Gym

- **Assignment = Consider ways you need to practice discerning good and evil.**
 - Write down 1 **Encumbrance** to lay aside and 1 corresponding way to fix your eyes on Jesus.
 - Add them to your 1 Sin and 1 fix your eye item from last week.
 - Find a trustworthy believing friend...small group, family, personal friend...or come see me!
 - Share your 4 items and invite them to hold you accountable...to pray...and to encourage you.
 - Close on this as a Christmas present to yourself.
 - NOTE: Choose wisely...don't let this become legalism or just a momentary fad.
- Remember we are corrupted as follows...
 - Intellectually (thinking right)
 - Volitionally (wanting and choosing right)
 - Affectionately (feeling or loving right)
 - Morally (discerning right)
 - Behaviorally (doing right)
 - Relationally (relate to God and others right)
- **Sins of omission (didn't do when you should have)**
- **Sins of commission (did do when you should not have)**
- **3 Types of Temptations**
 - **Lust of the flesh ...Physical body...gluttony, sexual, etc.**
 - **Lust of eyes ...Mind...pornography, gossip, vanity, coveting, etc.**
 - **Pride of life...Desires...power, greatness, fame, etc.**

