



ACCM

**Bible Study:** Thursday, June 6th, 2017.

**Topic:** THE FAITH THAT WORKS. Part 1

**TEXT:** Heb 11: 1-40

**INTRODUCTION:** Of all topics most misunderstood and sometimes frustrating in Christianity is the 'doctrine of faith'. However, despite the difficulty and seeming confusion around the doctrine of faith, the Bible states categorically that without faith, it is impossible to please God. Heb 11:6. The Bible went ahead to write a passage that one might refer to as faith's divine hall of fame. A closer look at these people will show very clearly that some of them if not all of them did not find this journey of faith very easy. I think a very easy way of defining faith is the ability to perform the challenging task. Sometimes it is difficult for others to understand the reasons for your actions when it comes to faith. You will find faith to be at various levels as it takes faith first to believe in God and then it takes faith to believe that God will do what He says He will do. Heb 11:6

Let us continue this discussion by telling a story I found some years ago on the internet. The story goes thus; A tourist came too close to the edge of the Grand Canyon, lost his footing and plunged over the side, clawing and scratching to save himself. After he went out of sight and just before he fell into space, he stumbled upon a scrubby bush which he desperately grabbed with both hands. Filled with terror, he called out toward heaven, "Is there anyone up there?" A calm, powerful voice came out of the sky, "Yes, there is." The tourist pleaded, "Can you help me? Can you help me?" The calm voice replied, "Yes, I probably can. What is your problem?" "I fell over the cliff and am dangling in space holding to a bush that is about to let go. Please help me." The voice from above said, "I'll try. Do you believe?" "Yes, yes, I believe." "Do you have faith?" "Yes, yes. I have strong faith." The calm voice said, "Well, in that case, simply let loose of the bush and everything will turn out fine." There was a tense pause, then the tourist yelled, "Is there anyone else up there?"

It's one thing to talk about faith – It is quite another to act on faith!

#### **OUTLINE:**

**So what is Faith?** Heb 11: 1, Rom 8: 24-25, 2 Cor 4: 18

According to Heb 11: 1, faith is a reality. In other words, it is a guarantee for something. Faith makes real the thing that God has prepared for us. Faith is been sure that whatever God said He will do, will come to pass.

Faith is not 'believing that God will do it' but it is believing that God has done it.

Faith means doing something that might not be very rational to the five senses. It operates in a realm that transcends the senses. Faith does not suspend your senses. It is a case of 'I know what the situation is about and I believe that God will fix it'.

**1. Believing when others cannot see it!** Heb 11: 1. It sounds like a contradiction, but the Bible teaches that faith can see it even when others cannot. It's being sure of what others might not see. Man says: "Seeing is believing", God says: "Believing is seeing." Man says 'do not put all your eggs in one basket' God says 'put all the eggs in one basket' Everything that's happened in life was an impossibility to some people but often not the visioneer. Faith is simply trusting God to turn dreams into what others will be able to see.

What do you see in your own future? What is your dream? What seemingly impossible thing is God going to do in your life? You have to have faith that it has happened for it to happen – you have to be certain that God has done these things in your life for them to become a reality.

**2. Obeying when you do not understand!** Heb 11: 8, Abrahams case was a lost one according to the senses. The obedience to go on that journey at 75 was a demonstration of his faith in this God. He simply obeyed.

**How can you have faith?** Rom 10:17, Heb 12: 1-2

In Verses 1 and 2 of Hebrews 12 what are the three things which we must do so we could run the race with endurance.

**Faith is a Gift from God:** Heb 12:2a, 3b, I Cor 12:7, 9a, Gal 5:22, Eph 6:23

**Pray for it:** Mark 9:24, Luke 17:5

**Study the word of God:** Rom 10:17, Rom 15:4b, John 20:30-31, Acts 20:32 I Tim 4:6b

**Be sincere with the word:** Luke: 8:15, Heb 4:2.

**Listen to Testimonies:** II Kings 5:1-5, John 4:28-30,39, John 17:20, II Peter 1:16-19.

**By outstanding miracles:** Acts: 4:4, 8:6, 9:42

**What is the opposite of faith?** 2 Cor 5: 7.

**Does faith need time for the things to be made manifest?** No? It is hope that needs time but faith will see it right now. Rom 8: 24-25. Heb 11:1. However faith and hope works together.

**How can our faith please God?** Heb 11: 6, Rom 3: 28, 14:23

**Why should we have faith?** Heb 11:6, Rom 14:23b, Psalm 27:13, II Cor 4:16-18, 1 John 14: 15, Mal 3: 6, Numbers 23: 19. I Sam 15: 29,

Faith is not sentiment, speculation, laziness or mental assent to a doctrine. Faith accepts whatever God has revealed and acts with absolute confidence that the revelation is true. It can see what the senses can see but it overcomes them by faith.

Examine our examples Heb 11: 5-7, 32-38

Enoch: Gen 5: 21-24,  
Noah: Gen 2:5, 6:17

**What are the challenges of Faith:** Faith is not just a roller coaster sweet life all the way. There could be a challenging time associated with faith. Heb 11: 35-38

**CONCLUSION:** To have faith takes a beginning and then a continuation. Whatever you do not start, you will never achieve. We will need to begin to practice the life of faith for it to take root in us. The world is tired of what we say but it is time for the word to see the demonstration. For this to happen, the children of God must begin to live the life of the supernatural and that is simply that we must begin to live a life of faith.