

# DISCUSSION IDEAS BY FAITH

Hebrews 11

May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015

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How have people been made right with God throughout all history?

Did following the Law given through Moses bring salvation? Look at Romans 3:19-20.

Remember that the readers of Hebrews were severely tempted to return to their old Jewish religion.

Before Jesus died and rose again, would they have been saved by obeying the teachings of Judaism?

How were they saved? Look at Romans 3:28.

## ♦ DISCUSSION POINT ONE: HOW DO YOU DEFINE "FAITH"?

How many times have you heard someone say, "You folks just rely on blind faith! Me? I only trust what I can prove."

How do you answer that?

The secular world defines Blind Faith as "belief without true understanding, perception, or discrimination" (*Dictionary.com*).

Would you agree with your accuser that Blind Faith is not a good thing?

Now read Hebrews 11:1-2.

What two characteristics of Biblical Faith are given here?

Your friend says, "I only trust what I can prove". Could you agree that you yourself also only trust what has been proven to you?

Upon what is the certainty of your faith based?

How certain are you of what is stated in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4?

What does the apostle Paul state in 1 Cor. 15:13-14?

## ♦ DISCUSSION POINT TWO: WHAT FAITH IS NOT.

"He was not healed because he just did not have enough faith."

"My prayers were not answered because I just did not have enough faith."

## POWER:

Really? Who has the power associated with faith? Remember, "faith" merely means "trust".

If I trust someone or something, what role does my effort have?

So I go for a ride in an airplane, does my faith hold the wings on?

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## OBEDIENCE:

Can I have faith without obedience? How many times has a child disobeyed with complete conviction that he or she would be disciplined?

One author has said that faith is not obedience. It is conviction and trust. (Joseph Dillow, in "The Reign of the Servant Kings").

How does obedience relate to faith?

What would be the reason for obeying?

How would obedience relate to receiving planned rewards?

## ♦ DISCUSSION POINT THREE: EVIDENCE FOR TRUST IN GOD.

Compare Hebrews 11:3 with Genesis 1:1. Also look at Romans 1:20.

- Look at Abel (Gen. 4:4) in Heb. 11:4-7. Here we have the testimony of a man from around 6000 years ago!!
- Six generations later there was a man named Enoch (Gen. 5:21-24). Read what is said about him in Heb. 11:5-6.

Remember, this was before the Flood. How evil a time was that?

What is added in verse 6 as an instruction to us?

WHY is it important to God that we trust Him?

- Does trusting God mean that we are going to have it easy?

Compare Genesis 4:8 with Gen. 5:24. One was murdered, the other never died!

How do you suppose Able felt one split second after Cain killed him? Would he have wanted to reverse history?

How does faith (trust) in God affect my perspectives in life?

- We have all heard about Noah. Check Heb. 11:7.

How many years of opposition did he experience as he built the boat? Gen. 6:3 states the length of the "grace period".

If you want to see what God thought of Noah, read Gen. 6:8-22.

All of these examples have been from more than 4000 years ago!

- One interesting note: in Heb. 11:22 it states that Joseph knew about the Exodus which was to take place about 400 years later. How did he know that? Look at Genesis 15:13. How does that illustrate trust in a reliable source?

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- **Another interesting comparison:** Rahab, the prostitute from Jericho, is mentioned in Heb. 11:31. What evidence was her faith based on? Reference Joshua 2:8-11. How did that compare with the response of the rest of the Canaanite population to the same information?

On your own time, read on through the rest of Heb. 11 and look at the faith these folks had. It will be very helpful to use the sermon notes from this week in your study.

(The sermon text, audio and video are on the GCC Website and on the GCC App. The text is also posted on the GCC Facebook page each week before the Sunday message.)

## ♦ **REFLECTION:**

How does someone who can not trust God change? (Remember, to "repent" merely means to "change my mind".)

Look at John 6:44 and John 12:32.

We still have not spent time on the issue of receiving what God has planned for our inheritance. Look at Heb. 6:11-12. Compare this to the number of times the words "received" and "promised" are used in Hebrews 11.

If you would like to read some very interesting scientific evidence showing that God did in fact create our universe, here are a few web sites:

- YOUR ORIGINS MATTER <http://www.icr.org/yom>
- Institute for Creation Research <http://www.icr.org/>
- Logos Research Associates <http://www.logosresearchassociates.org/>
- Answers in Genesis <https://answersingenesis.org/answers/>
- Creation Education Center <http://www.cecwisc.org/>