



# Bethel South Sermon Notes – “*Faith That Moves*”

**Speaker:** Ps Mike Gowans

**Series:** Jesus Is Better

**Scripture:** Hebrews 11

## Main Idea

Faith isn't simply believing that God *can* do something someday. Biblical faith is trusting Him in the present, acting on His Word, and faithfully carrying the assignment He has placed in our hands.

## Carry the Baton Well

To illustrate Hebrews 11, Ps Mike introduced the image of a relay baton.

Each of us has been entrusted with a unique assignment from God.

Our responsibility is to:

- **Receive the baton.**
- **Faithfully carry it.**
- **Pass it on to the next generation.**

Faith is not just believing the right things—it is faithfully running the race God has given you.

Our lives are meant to leave a legacy of faith for those who come after us.

## Faith Lives in the Present

Hebrews 11:1 begins with one important word:

**"Now."**

Faith isn't rooted in yesterday.

Neither is it postponed until tomorrow.

Faith lives in the present.

Many people struggle because they live in one of two unhealthy places:

- **The past, replaying failures, regrets, and missed opportunities.**
- **The future, consumed with anxiety, fear, and "what ifs."**

But God meets us today.

Today is where His grace is available.

Today is where obedience happens.

Faith responds to what God is saying right now.

## Hope Looks Forward. Faith Acts Now.

Hope and faith work together, but they are not the same.

**Hope** is a confident expectation that God will fulfill His promises.

It keeps us from despair and reminds us that our future is secure.

**Faith** is the assurance of what we hope for.

Faith doesn't merely wait.

Faith responds.

Hope looks ahead.

Faith takes the next step.

The Christian life isn't passive optimism.

It's active trust.

## Gifts Are Received. Rewards Are Pursued.

One of the most important distinctions in the message was the difference between God's gifts and God's rewards.

### God's Gifts

These cannot be earned.

They are received through faith.

Examples include:

- **Salvation**
- **Forgiveness**
- **Righteousness**
- **The Holy Spirit**
- **God's approval**

Grace is never something we achieve.

It is something we receive.

### God's Rewards

Scripture also teaches that God rewards those who diligently seek Him.

Seeking God isn't passive.

It involves:

- **Obedience**
- **Faithfulness**
- **Serving**
- **Persevering**
- **Continuing to do what God has already asked us to do**

If your faith feels stagnant, ask yourself:

**Have I obeyed the last thing God told me to do?**

Often, God doesn't reveal the next step until we faithfully walk in the one He's already given.

## Magnify the Right Thing

Perspective determines how we experience life's challenges.

Ps Mike illustrated this by comparing a problem held close to our eyes.

Even something small appears enormous when it's all we focus on.

The same is true spiritually.

When we continually magnify our circumstances:

- **Fear grows.**
- **Anxiety increases.**
- **Faith weakens.**

But when we intentionally magnify God:

- **His faithfulness becomes clearer.**
- **His promises become stronger.**
- **Our problems begin to shrink into their proper perspective.**

The goal isn't pretending problems don't exist.

It's remembering that God is infinitely greater than every problem we face.

Praise shifts our perspective.

## Faith Comes by Hearing

Romans teaches that faith comes by hearing the Word of God.

To help build our faith, the church received a printed declaration of Scripture.

Reading God's Word aloud isn't empty repetition.

It is filling our hearts and minds with truth.

As we continually declare God's promises, our confidence grows, our thinking changes, and our faith is strengthened.

God's Word has the power to reshape the way we see every circumstance.

## Final Challenge

Take the faith declaration home this week.

Place it somewhere you'll see it every day.

Read it aloud.

Meditate on God's promises.

Let His Word become louder than your fears.

Don't simply hope that things will change.

Walk in faith today by obeying God's voice, magnifying His greatness, and faithfully carrying the baton He has placed in your hands.

## Discussion Questions

1. Ps Mike compared our calling to carrying a relay baton. What "baton" or assignment do you believe God has entrusted to you in this season, and how can you faithfully carry it?
2. Hebrews 11 begins with the word "*Now*." Why is it so easy to live in the past or worry about the future? What does it practically look like to exercise faith in the present?
3. The sermon distinguished between God's gifts and God's rewards. Why is it important to understand that salvation and righteousness are received by grace, while certain rewards come through faithful obedience?
4. Ps Mike challenged us to ask, "*Have I obeyed the last thing God told me to do?*" Is there an area where God has already spoken to you but you've been hesitant to obey? What would your next step look like?
5. What are you magnifying most right now—your circumstances or God's character? How can intentionally praising God and declaring His Word help reshape your perspective this week?