

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. **Enjoy discovering more about Him!**

"THE MANY ROADS OF FATH: WHAT IS FAITH?" | HEBREWS 11 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

- What type of weather is the most challenging for you to drive in and why?

"Faith Trusts What God Has Promised" Hebrews 11: 1

Faith is not being certain about the outcome but rather it is being certain about God and His promises.

- What is an example of trusting God without knowing all the details?

"Faith Sees Beyond What Is Visible" Hebrews 11: 1

Faith recognizes that visible circumstances are not the whole story, but God is in control.

- How do visible circumstances make it difficult to trust in God?

"Faith Builds A Life On The Reality Of God" Hebrews 11: 2-3

Faith begins with this conviction: God is real and has spoken to us and He can be trusted. He is faithful through imperfect people.

- How has God been faithful through your imperfections?

"Many Roads, One Faithful God" Hebrews 11

Faith is not proven by how the story turns out, but rather faith is proven by whom we trust in the middle of the story.

- How do you handle being hurt or unsuccessful even though you were following God?

"What Is The Christ Connection?" Hebrews 12: 1-2

The famous people of Hebrews 11 are to encourage us, but our eyes are fixed on Jesus and we follow Him.

- How does it impact you knowing that Jesus is the founder and perfecter of our faith?

REFLECTION AND APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

Faith is trusting in the faithfulness of God on every road of life. Even though we don't know all the details or the situation doesn't make sense, we trust in God. Some people of faith suffer or fail while others triumph and flourish. God is faithful through it all, ultimately shown in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

- Has your faith been struggling lately because of visible circumstances?
- What are ways you are waiting on God without seeing what He is doing?
- Pray that God would give you living faith to be obedient through all the fog and confusion this week..

The Many Roads of Faith

10-04-26

What Is Faith?

I. Announce:

- A. Welcome to those watching online.
- B. Slide1-5 Lar: Harvest Fest. Xmas Boutique. REAL. Roh Prayer. Church Prayer.
- C. Slide6a Prayer:

II. Intro:

- A. *Read Personal Update:
- B. Slide6b Today (10/4) - Hebrews 11:1-3, Intro & chapter overview - Brian
 - 1. Oct 11 - Jacob: Faith That Limps - Andrew Lacasse
 - 2. Oct 18 - Samson: Faith That Returns - Andrew Paulsen
 - 3. Oct 25 - David: Faith That Devotes - Cam
 - 4. Nov 01 - Daniel: Faith That Stands - Jason
- C. The movement: *Faith believes. Faith limps. Faith returns. Faith devotes. Faith stands.*
- D. I want to start with - Hebrews 11 is **not really a hall of Super Heroes** so much as ... **A gallery of ordinary people trusting an Extraordinary God.** [17 named people +]
- E. Big Idea: Faith is trusting **the faithfulness of God** on every road of life.
- F. When we hear the word **faith** it often sounds *vague or mystical*.
 - 1. Some people mean **optimism**. Some mean **positive thinking**.
Some mean **believing strongly enough** that things will work out. **But** biblical faith is more grounded than that. **Our faith is not** in our faith! **Our faith is not** confidence *in ourselves*; but biblical faith is **confidence in God**.
- G. Slide6c Test your theology ... **Which line can be removed?** [It doesn't matter if you believe it or not for it to be truth] [Faith means believing what God said because He said it.]
 - 1. Biblical is not simply **mental agreement** with revealed truth **but** the **practical submission** of the entire person **to** that truth's guidance & control.¹
- H. Slide7 **What Is Faith?** - There are **3 types of Faith** in Scripture.

¹ E. McChesney, Faith, in The New Unger's Bible Dictionary, ed. Merrill F. Unger and R.K. Harrison.

1. **Saving faith.** This is trusting in Jesus Christ for salvation.
Eph.2:8-9 says, *For by grace you have been saved through **faith**.*
 2. **Living or Active faith.** The faith that continues after conversion and shapes how we live. Heb.11 is really a chapter full of this kind of faith: *Noah builds, Abraham goes, Moses chooses, Rahab acts.* Faith becomes visible through obedience.
 3. **The gift of faith.** 1 Cor.12:9, Paul lists “faith” among the **spiritual gifts**. This seems to describe *an unusual God-given confidence for a particular situation, challenge, ministry need, or moment.*
- I. **Summarize:** Saving faith - faith that **receives** Christ. Living faith - faith that **walks** with Christ. Gifted faith - faith that **trusts** God in *an extraordinary way*.
- J. We'll build the message around 3 movements: ***Faith Trusts What God Has Promised. Faith Sees Beyond What Is Visible. Faith Builds a Life on the Reality of God.***

III. Slide8a **1. FAITH TRUSTS WHAT GOD HAS PROMISED** (Heb.11:1)

- A.1 Now **faith is the assurance of things hoped for**, the conviction of things not seen.
- B. Faith looks forward. *It rests its weight on what God has said, even when we have not yet seen the fulfillment.*
- C. The word **hope** here is not wishful thinking: *I hope it works out.* Slide8b Biblical hope is *confident expectation because of the character of the One who promised.*
- D. *Faith is not being certain about the outcome; it is being certain about God.*
1. That distinction is important. **Abraham** did not know where the road would lead. **Moses** did not know every detail of what leaving Egypt would involve. **Daniel** did not know how the lions' den would end.
 - a) Their faith was not certainty about *circumstances*. It was trust in God.
- E. Slide8c Where are you waiting on God right now, *without* being able to see what He is doing?

IV. Slide9a **2. FAITH SEES BEYOND WHAT IS VISIBLE** (Heb.11:1)

A.1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, **the conviction of things not seen.**

B. Faith takes seriously, realities that **cannot yet be seen.**

1. That **doesn't mean** faith *ignores facts*, it **means** faith refuses to believe that **visible circumstances** are the whole story.

2. **Slide9b** We have all driven through **fog**? You cannot see the whole road ahead, **but** you can see enough **to keep moving.**

a) **Faith** does not require us to **see** the whole road, it asks us to **trust the One** who does.

C. This is where we can connect 2 Cor. 5:7. *For we walk by faith, not by sight.*

1. Using that road imagery again: Walking by faith means **our lives** are **not** governed only by **what we can see.**

D. **Slide9c** What **visible** circumstance is currently making it difficult for you to **trust** what God has said?

V. **Slide10a** **3. FAITH BUILDS A LIFE ON THE REALITY OF GOD (Heb.11:2,3)**

A.2 For by it the people of old received their commendation.

3 By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

B. Vs. 2 **introduces the entire chapter** - *These people were commended **not** because they were *perfect*, **but** because *they trusted God*.*

1. That is an important setup for our series. **Jacob** was deeply flawed. **Samson** failed spectacularly. **David** sinned seriously. **Yet Hebrews** remembers people for faith.

a) **Slide10b** *Hebrew 11 is **NOT** a museum of perfect people, it's a testimony to a faithful God working through imperfect people.*

C. Vs. 3 **takes faith** all the way back to **creation**. We believe that behind what is seen, stands the **unseen God**, who spoke everything into existence.

1. That means faith begins with this conviction >>> **Slide10c** **God is real, God has spoken, and God can be trusted.**

D. Now Let's move into our chapter overview.

VI. Slide 11a HEBREWS 11 - MANY ROADS, ONE FAITHFUL GOD

A. An important pattern through Hebrews 11 is the repeated phrase, *By faith...* (17 x's)
It functions almost like a **drumbeat** through the chapter.

B. A Quick walk through the chapter: *Abel, faith worships. Enoch, faith walks. Noah, faith obeys. Abraham, faith goes. Sarah, faith waits. Moses, faith chooses. Israel, faith crosses. Rahab, faith risks. Others, faith conquers, suffers, endures, and sometimes dies - without seeing the promise fulfilled.*

1. This last part is crucial! Heb.'s 11 does not say faith always leads to earthly success.
2. Vss. 35-38 shift dramatically. *Some "escaped the edge of the sword," while others "were killed with the sword." or [Some had victory in this life; others whose lives were the victory]*

a) Slide 11b Same Faith. Different Outcomes!

C. Faith is not proven by how the story turns out - Faith is proven by **Whom** we trust *in the middle of the story.*

1. That protects us from becoming *overly triumphant.*
2. Some roads lead *to victory.* Some roads lead *through suffering.*
Some people *walk strongly.* Some *limp.* Some *wander and return.*
Some *stand alone.* But they are all invited to **trust the same God.**

a) Slide 11c Faith doesn't always look the same!

D. So, the upcoming weeks:

1. **Jacob: Faith That Limp** (sometimes faith means being changed through struggle)
2. **Samson: Faith That Returns** (sometimes faith means turning back after failure)
3. **David: Faith That Devotes** (sometimes faith means giving God your whole heart)
4. **Daniel: Faith That Stands** (sometimes faith means staying faithful when everyone around you bows)

E. Back to the series Big Idea: **Slide11d** *The shape of faith may change with the road, but the object of our faith never changes. God is faithful.*

VII.Slide12a WHAT IS THE CHRIST CONNECTION?

A. I want to land on Heb. 12:1-2 rather than stopping at ch.11. Because all of Hebrews 11 leads somewhere! - 12:1 *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*

B. The heroes of faith are not the finish line. **Jesus is!**

1. Heb.11 moves from individual stories to a huge cloud of witnesses, **then** turns the reader's eyes **away from all of them** and **toward Jesus**. So ...
2. We are not ultimately called to imitate **Abraham, Moses, Jacob, Samson, David or Daniel**. Their lives encourage us, **but our eyes are fixed on Jesus**.

C. **Jesus** is not merely *another example of faith*. **He is the Founder and Perfecter of our faith.**

D. **Wrap Up:** **You** may not know what road you are on right now.

1. Maybe you are **waiting**. Maybe you are **wrestling**. Maybe you are **returning**. Maybe you are **standing**. Maybe you are **simply trying to take the next step**.
2. **Faith** does not require you to know where the road goes, faith simply says, **"I know Who walks with me."**
 - a) **Slide12b Different roads. Same faithful God.**

E. **Communion:** (call team up)

F. Heb. 11 gives us a long list of people who lived by faith. **But** none of them are the point. **Heb. 12 tells us where to look:** *'looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.'* Faith is not ultimately about how strong our grip is on God, it is about

how trustworthy **He** is, and nowhere do we see His faithfulness more clearly than at **the cross**.

1. **The bread** and **the cup** are **visible reminders** of an **invisible reality**.
 We **cannot** physically see Christ seated at the right hand of the Father.
 We **cannot** yet see the full redemption He has promised. **But** we hold in our hands these tangible signs that remind us: **His body was given**.
His blood was shed. **The promise is real**.

a) **The bread** says, “He gave Himself for me.”

b) **The cup** says, “The covenant is secure.”

c) **And faith** says, “I trust Him.”

G. **Prayer:** Lord, before we take the bread & cup, we don’t look around at **the heroes of faith**. We don’t even look inward at the strength of **our own faith**. **We look to Jesus**.

H. **End: Faith** looks forward to what God has promised, **but communion** looks back to what God has already done. **And the cross** gives us confidence for the road ahead.

1. **There are Many Roads of Faith. Different Roads. Same Faithful God.**

I. Keywords: faith, sees, trusts.