

HALL OF FAITH

HEBREWS 11

Now **faith** is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.

• **Faith is NOT a** ⁽¹⁹³⁾ _____ **leap**

• **Faith has its** ⁽¹⁹⁴⁾ _____

• Not measured by physical means, but understood spiritually!

“Faith does not contradict reason, though it may go beyond reason. I may objectively prove the Bible is the most unique book ever published, and has impacted society more than any other book. But only faith can prove that the Bible is the Word of God. Therefore, this is a belief beyond reason, but not in contradiction to reason.” - David Guzik, commentary on the Book of Hebrews

By **faith** we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

By **faith** Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

By **faith** Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, “and was not found, because God had taken him”; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But 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 diligently seek Him.

• **God is a** ⁽¹⁹⁵⁾ _____

By **faith** Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

By **faith** Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

• **God’s promises may** ⁽¹⁹⁶⁾ _____ **, but they are never late**

By **faith** Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

These all died in **faith**, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

• **God promises us a better** ⁽¹⁹⁷⁾ _____

By **faith** Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

By **faith** Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

By **faith** Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.

By **faith** Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.

By **faith** Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command.

By **faith** Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

By **faith** he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them.

By **faith** they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned.

By **faith** the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days. By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.

And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again.

God uses ⁽¹⁹⁸⁾ _____ **people!**

Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Secret of the great men and women of faith: ⁽¹⁹⁹⁾ _____

Faith is very difficult when we live as "practical atheists." This describes someone who may have a theoretical belief in God, but the belief doesn't matter in what they do from day to day. When we remember there is a spiritual reality - a heavenly home that is our real home - faith is much easier.

- **David Guzik, commentary on the Book of Hebrews**

PRINCIPLE

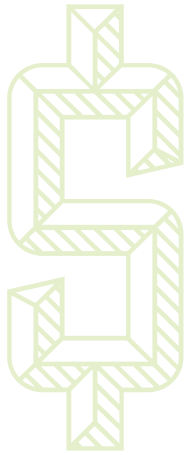
TEN

Choose (200) _____ *Over Affluence*

HARD QUESTIONS

- *Will you use money and possessions as a tool to impact your family, friends, and neighbors?*
- *Will you pass the test of faith by pursuing God's purposes for your resources?*
- *Will your life be a testimony of God's grace in impacting future generations?*

SESSION 22 SUMMARY



The great Hall of Faith is filled with imperfect people who believed God would do what He said He would do. They obtained a good testimony and influenced generations upon generations of people based on their faith. They didn't do anything our culture typically views as heroic – they simply trusted God. Do you? Will you live day-to-day based on the promises contained in the pages of Scripture?

Principle ten: Choose Influence Over Affluence!

1. We live in a culture where affluence is the holy grail. How do you resist the pull of the culture?

2. Are you pursuing a Kingdom purpose? Do the people closest to you know your purpose?

GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOU

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. - Ephesians 2:10

... and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him [be] glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. - Revelation 1:6

'Then I will give them a heart to know Me, that I [am] the LORD; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, for they shall return to Me with their whole heart. - Jeremiah 24:7

- You were designed with a Kingdom purpose
- Do you know what purpose is?
- Are you pursuing Kingdom purpose with your whole heart?

PRAY FOR KINGDOM PURPOSE

Father, thank You for designing me and equipping me with a purpose that's bigger than myself. Thank You for a purpose You created me to pursue.

Jesus, thank You for resolutely pursuing Your purpose to lay down Your life as the perfect Lamb of God.

Holy Spirit, fill me with Your presence and power to pursue the Father's purpose for my life. Help me understand how You've designed me, and help me find the purpose for which You created me. My desire is to live a life of Kingdom purpose.

In Jesus' Name.