

SRMBC FAMILY BIBLE STUDY



FAITH

Depending On God

Every Wednesday at 6:30 pm – Starting 1/15/2020

SOLID ROCK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

8000 DERRY STREET (REAR)

HARRISBURG PA 17111



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Study Schedule Jan - Feb

Date	Topic	Scripture
1/22/2020	In Praise of Faith	Hebrews 11:1 – 16
1/29/2020	Abraham: Faith Under Construction	Genesis 12:1 – 9
2/5/2020	Naaman: Faith Without Fireworks	II Kings 5:1 – 15
2/12/2020	In Jesus Name: Faith That Asks	John 16:16 – 28
2/19/2020	The Finale of Faith	II Timothy 4:6 – 18

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Faith: Depending On God

Lesson 1: In Praise of Faith

Hebrews 1:1 – 16

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Group Discussion: What do you think it means to live by faith? When have you wished you had more faith?

Apollo 13: "Getting Home"



With the fate of astronaut **Jim Lovell** and his Apollo 13 crew in jeopardy, an old interview airs on television, where he talks about the faith of finding a way home.

Questions

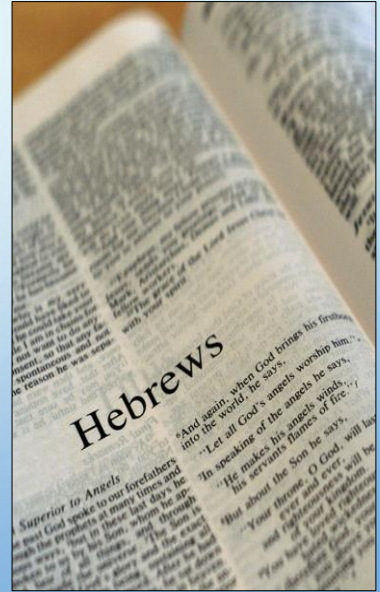
- What was the dilemma facing Jim Lovell and his attempts to get home.
- What was Jim tempted to do when it seemed he was out of his own options?
- In what ways do people respond when life gets hard and seemingly out of options?
- How does the cockpit malfunction and the darkness correlate to help Jim? Has God ever worked in a similar way?
- What do you think it means to live by faith? When have you wished you had more faith?

The Letter To The Hebrews

- **Author:** The human author is uncertain (Paul, Luke, Apollos, Aquila...) **God is the divine author of all Scripture** (2 Timothy 3:16); therefore, **Hebrews speaks with the same authority.**
- **Date of Writing:** Most Scholars believe the book was written around A.D. 65.
- **Purpose of Writing:** Some early Jewish believers were slipping back into Judaism to escape persecution. This letter exhorts those persecuted believers to continue in the grace of Jesus Christ.

The Book Of Hebrews:

- The writer of Hebrews reveals the superiority of Christ in both His personage and in His ministering work.
- The Book of Hebrews brings relationship of the Old and New Testaments into focus.
- The Epistle to the Hebrews also gives us encouraging examples of God's "faith heroes" (Hebrews 11).
- The letter contains encouragement along with 5 solemn warnings we must heed. (2:1-4, 3:7-4:13, 5:11-6:20, 10:26-39).
- in Hebrews we find a magnificent portrait of our Lord Jesus Christ—the Author and Finisher of our great salvation (Hebrews 12:2).



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Hebrews 11:1 – 5

1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.

3 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.

4 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.

5 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.



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Hebrews 11:6 – 9

6 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.

7 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.

8 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.

9 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;



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Hebrews 11:10 – 13

10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

11 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.

12 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.

13 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.

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Hebrews 11:14 – 16

14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland.

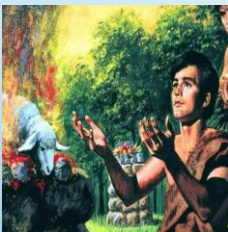
15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return.

16 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.

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1. Consider the actions of each of the people named in this passage. What does their behavior have in common?



Abel (Gen 4:1 – 16)

Made A Better Offering Than Cain.

His faith and offering pleased God.

Although Murdered by His Brother, His faith Still Spoke.



Enoch (Gen. 5:21 – 24)

Walked Faithfully with God for 365 years.

Lived a life that pleased God.

He so pleased God, that God took him to heaven without dying.



Noah (Gen. 6:9 – 22)

Walked blamelessly with God.

Built the Ark – even before the rains came, saving his family

Provided an example for NT believers today

His building testified of God's coming judgement.



Abraham (Gen. 12 – 22)

Left home not knowing where he was going.

Lived in tents waiting for a promised city built by God.

Passed on the faith to his descendants (Isaac & Jacob).



Sarah (Gen. 12 – 22)

Believed God and was rewarded.

Believed that despite her age she will have a child.

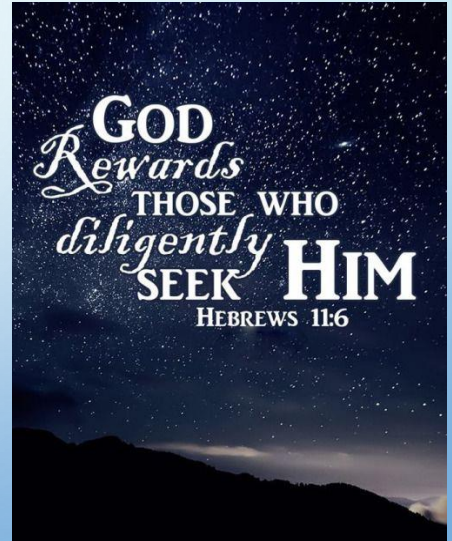
Believed that despite Abraham's old age God could produce the promised child.

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1. Consider the actions of each of the people named in this passage. What does their behavior have in common?

- When they heard the Word of God, they believed it/Him.
- They took action on the Word and the promises regardless what the present looked like.
- Their actions were seen by others as a witness to their faith in God.
- They believed that God has the Character and the Power to do just what He said.
- Because of their faith God imputed righteousness to them and motivated them to live Holy lives.



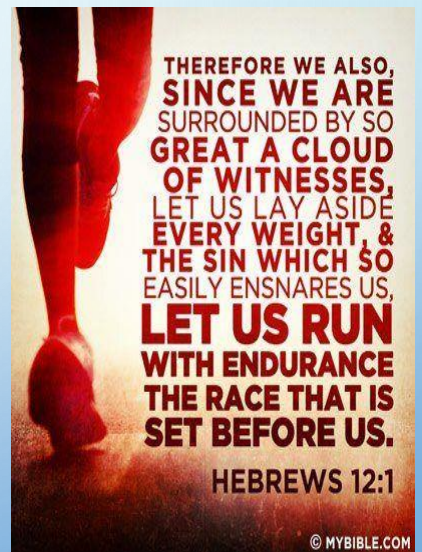
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2. Why do “the ancients” (the Old Testament faithful) deserve honor (vv. 1-2)?

Honoring the OT Saints

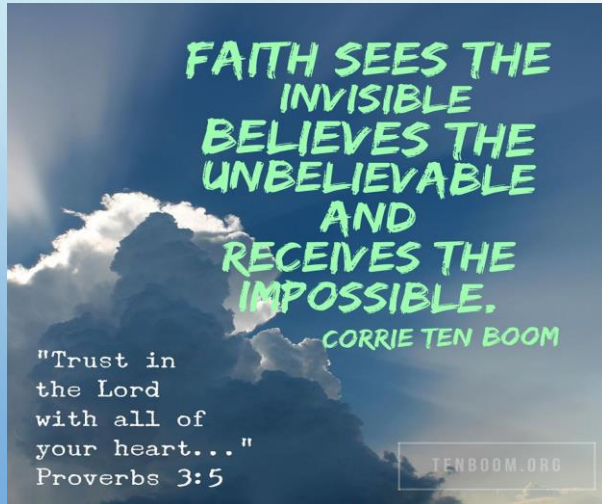
- The ancients set the foundation of Faith that we follow today.
- They laid the groundwork (the runaway) for the coming of Jesus – the Savior and Messiah.
- Although they had less information than we have today, the ancients demonstrated great faith in God.
- They show that you can have faith in God regardless of what it looks like or even if the promise doesn't come to pass in this life.
- They should be honored for their examples of faithfulness and perseverance – even in the midst of persecution and uncertainty.



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3. How would you describe the faith for which they are honored?



“To the writer to the Hebrews, faith is a hope that is absolutely certain that what it believes is true, and that what it expects will come.

It is not the hope which looks forward with wistful longing; it is the hope which looks forward with utter certainty. It is not the hope which takes refuge in a perhaps; it is the hope which is founded on a conviction...” (William Barclay, The Letter to the Hebrews)

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4. What indicates that these people’s behavior was based on something beyond emotional feeling (vv. 4-5, 7-9, 11)?

Abel (Expensive Sacrifice)	Because of Abel’s love and acknowledgement of the Holiness and Awesomeness of the Lord, he made the most expensive/costly sacrifice of worship.
Enoch (Exclusive Sanctification)	Appreciation of God’s blessings and His authority moved Enoch to live in a way that pleased His Lord.
Noah (Exceptional Steadfastness)	Noah moved by fear and reverence – built the Ark as instructed, not stopping until completed (55 to 75 years).
Abraham (Extreme Submission)	Abram’s Faith and trust in God caused him to uproot his family and go where God told him (with knowing the destination).
Sarah Expressive Surety	Sarah despite logic and nature – believed God was able to do just what He said.

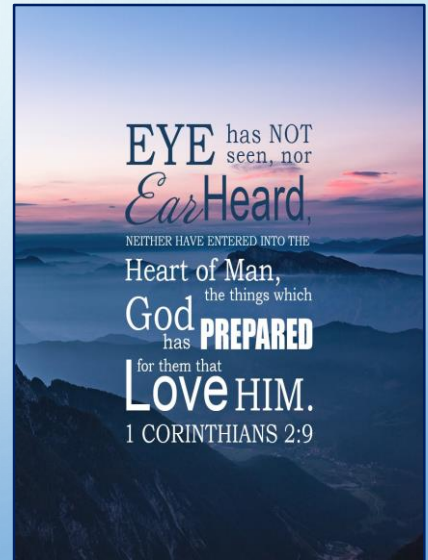
NOTE: Throughout the Bible, faith is different from optimism or wishful thinking. **It is trust in something or rather in Someone.**

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5. In what ways did the faith of these people remain unfulfilled (vv. 13-16)?

- They did not see the fulfillment of the promises of God (descendants, land, etc.) in their lifetime.
- They did not physically see the promise of God, but their faith and trust laid the foundation for future believers.
- While they did not see God's Promised Messiah – His Son and our Savior Jesus Christ, they Looked forward to His coming.



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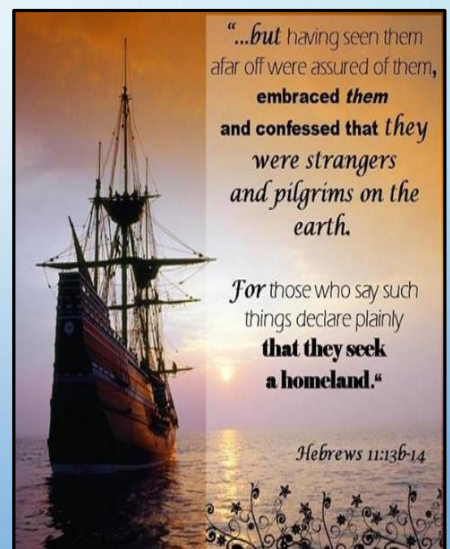
6. How did they see themselves in relation to this world? How does your faith in God affect your attitude toward this world?

The OT Saints Attitude Toward the World

- They saw God's priorities as higher and of greater value than their own or the world's.
- They saw themselves as visitors in the present world – living a different lifestyle/language than those around them.
- Reborn in Heaven – claiming God Kingdom as home – not the earth/world.

The Believer's Attitude Toward the World (System)

- God's Word and Ways are greater than the World.
- The things of this world are temporary and ultimately unsatisfying.
- This World is not my home – I am going to a better place that God has prepared.
- God has an assignment/mission for me (and His Church) to accomplish in the earth.



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7. How would you define faith? (If your answer is only to repeat verse 1, rephrase it in your own words!)

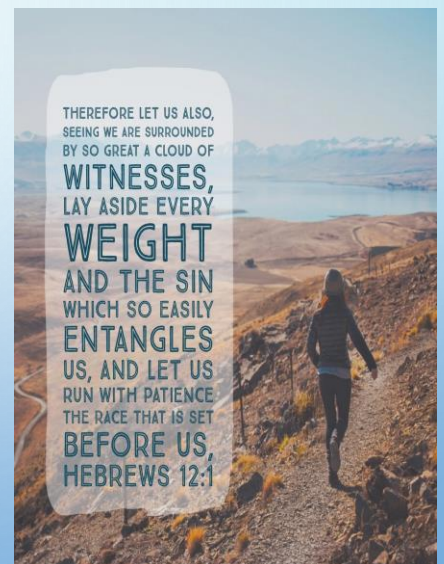
- **Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**
New King James Version (NKJV)
- **Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.**
English Standard Version (ESV)
- **The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It's our handle on what we can't see.**
The Message (MSG)
- **Faith makes us sure of what we hope for and gives us proof of what we cannot see.**
Contemporary English Version (CEV)
- **Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.**
New International Version (NIV)

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8. How does Hebrews 11 encourage your own faith in God?

- Despite the way things look in the now – God can be trusted to keep His Promises for the future.
- God rewards our faith as we make His Word and Will the priority in our lives.
- The struggles and trials that we face today have been faced by the faithful who have gone on before.
- I am encouraged to not give up – even when things are at there very worst.
- My eternal rewards far outweigh the trouble and opposition in this world.



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Keys for Living

- Faith is not simply believing that God exists, but trust in His power and character that obeys His commands and trusts in His promises.
- The Old Testaments saints are examples on how God deals with those who put their trust in Him. Since God doesn't change, we can also trust Him to do what is for our good and His glory.
- Every believer has the responsibility to follow and be examples of faithfulness to Jesus Christ so that others may see lifestyle and give glory to God.

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Questions?



**Nevertheless, when the
Son of Man comes,
will He really find
faith on the earth?**

Luke 18:8