

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

April 2014

Hebrews

The Preeminence of Jesus Christ

Lesson #15: Faith in Action

INTRODUCTION

What everyday activities demonstrate our faith (i.e. sitting)?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Hebrews 11:1-3

Note: The NSRV translation “assurance” come from “under” and “stand.” Literally it means “a standing under, support.” In papyri business documents “assurance” is the basis or guarantee of transactions. The words evidence and conviction carry the concept of proof as in the legal system.

1. What is the foundation for hope, providing the ground on which hope is built?
2. Man’s natural response is to trust his senses. How can our senses lie? How about God? Titus 1:2
3. If natural trust comes from natural birth, where does spiritual trust come from? Eph 2:8
4. If a blind man refuses to believe there is light because he has never seen it, how can a natural man comprehend spiritual faith? What is his means of perception? Heb 11:27

Read Hebrews 11:4-39

Note: Abraham died having seen some, but not all, of God’s promises fulfilled. We stand in precisely the same situation. God will certainly fulfill all His promises, but the greatest of them await the next life. ¹

5. Why is faith so important to God? vs. 6
6. Which Old Testament “faithful” saint is the most significant to you? Why?
7. What do modern Christians have that should help their faith?
8. Sometimes people say that faith yields success. How would the Christians in vs. 35-38 respond?
9. Why is faith often distorted?
10. Why are actions (works?) tied to faith? What is their role? What does faith do? Js 2:14

APPLICATION

Spiritual faith is like a muscle that must be exercised or it begins to atrophy. How can you exercise your faith muscle?

When we are willing to accept as fact what God’s Word says, and in response reach out to seek and to experience relationship with Him, then we have begun to live by faith. And then we will be rewarded.

This living by faith—accepting as fact the truths that we cannot touch or feel or see, and then acting on them—seems such a simple prescription for life. Lest we make the mistake of equating simplicity with ineffectiveness, the chapter moves on to detail the accomplishments of faith.

Enablement (Heb. 11:4–31). In this extended passage the writer invites us to look into the lives of a host of heroes of the faith, and to see how faith expressed itself in their experiences. We see as the writer analyzes each life that, essentially, faith enables. ²

¹ Stanley, C. F. (2005). *The Charles F. Stanley life principles Bible: New King James Version* (Heb 11:13). Nashville, TN: Nelson Bibles.

²Richards, Larry ; Richards, Lawrence O.: *The Teacher’s Commentary*. Wheaton, Ill. : Victor Books, 1987, S. 1011