

HEBREWS 11:1-7

FIRST DAY: Introduction

Hudson Taylor, the pioneer missionary to China, said, *God is not looking for men of great faith, He is looking for common men to trust His great faithfulness.*¹⁴ Faith is not the ability to simply believe. To believe in a lie or a myth would be folly, fruitless, and doomed to failure. It doesn't matter how greatly someone believes a lie; a lie will never become a truth. Our faith is great because it is based on the truth. It is the ultimate reality behind all of life!

God's Word, the Bible, reveals to us the basis of our faith. It tells us what is true about God and His gracious work toward us through His Son, Jesus Christ. When we believe God and trust His Word, faith is implanted and actualized in our hearts. This faith in God empowers us, blesses us, sustains us, strengthens us, and brings distinction to our lives.

In Hebrews 11, the author highlighted the substantive quality and extraordinary power of our great faith.

Ask God to deeply implant faith in your heart.

SECOND DAY: Read Hebrews 11:1

1. In Hebrews 10, the author declared that *the just shall live by faith*. In chapter 11, he expounded on what *faith* looks like and how it is manifested in the life of the believer. Use Hebrews 11:1a to record his first statement about *faith*.

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- a. The Greek word for *substance* is *hypostasis*, which is defined as *confidence, firm trust, and assurance*. What does this indicate to you concerning:
 - (1) Our *faith* in Jesus

 - (2) Our hope in Jesus

 - (3) Our assurance in God's Word

2. From Hebrews 11:1b, record the author's second statement of *faith*.
 - a. The word *evidence* denotes *proof* or *conviction*. What does this imply to you when considering *things not seen*?

3. Connect the author's description of faith with Romans 8:24–25. What do you see?

4. Considering the substance and evidence of faith, use the following Scriptures to clarify what you believe about:
 - a. God—Exodus 34:6–7a

b. God's work—John 3:16

c. God's Word—2 Timothy 3:16

(1) Use Romans 10:8–13 to explain how faith is appropriated into our lives.

5. From your study today, how would you describe faith?

THIRD DAY: Read Hebrews 11:2–3

1. According to Hebrews 11:2, what did the *elders* obtain by faith?

a. Why do you think faith is essential to obtain *a good testimony*?

b. Share *a good testimony* of faith that has ministered to you.

2. According to Hebrews 11:3, what do we *understand by faith*?
 - a. Use the following Scriptures to comment on what we *understand by faith*:
 - (1) Psalm 33:6, 9

 - (2) John 1:1–3

 - (3) Colossians 1:15–17

 - (4) 2 Peter 3:5
 - b. Pastor David Guzik noted, *We did not see this act of creation; we only know of it by faith. We also know this by reason, because we know the world was created ... by an Intelligent Designer. ... This is faith going **beyond** but not in **contradiction** to reason.*¹⁵ How does this enhance your understanding of faith?
 - (1) How does this confirm to you that faith is the *evidence of things not seen*? See also Romans 1:20.

c. What connection do you see between understanding and faith?

(1) How has your faith brought you understanding?

3. What is your takeaway from your study today concerning faith?

FOURTH DAY: Read Hebrews 11:4–5

1. The author cited various biblical testimonies of faith to inspire the Hebrew believers. He began chronologically with Abel, the son of Adam and Eve. What did he say about Abel in Hebrews 11:4a?

a. Read Genesis 4:2b–7 to summarize this event.

(1) God had a specific offering He desired. Abel sought to please God, and therefore gave God what He desired. Cain chose to give God whatever Cain wanted to give without respect to what God desired. What does this convey to you about *faith*?

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2. Hebrews 11:4b (NLT) says, *Abel's offering gave evidence that he was a righteous man, and God showed His approval of his gifts. Although Abel is long dead, he still speaks to us by his example of faith.* Use this verse to note and comment on:
 - a. Abel's *offering* (See also Romans 4:5)

 - b. God's response (See also Matthew 23:35)

 - c. Abel's enduring testimony

3. The author's next example of *faith* was Enoch. What happened to him? Hebrews 11:5a
 - a. To relate Enoch's story, the author cited Genesis 5:24. Read Genesis 5:21–24 and write your observations.

4. According to Hebrews 11:5b, why was Enoch *taken*?
 - a. What do you find most compelling about Enoch's *testimony*?

(1) Link this with Matthew 7:7–8. What do you see?

3. Hebrews 11:7 (NLT) says, *It was by faith that Noah built a large boat to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about things that had never happened before. By his faith Noah condemned the rest of the world, and he received the righteousness that comes by faith.* What stands out to you about:

a. Noah's actions

b. Noah's obedience

c. Noah's faith

(1) Consider the fact that God warned Noah about something *that had never happened before* in human history (the Flood—Genesis 6–9), and yet he believed and obeyed God. Link this with Hebrews 11:1 and share your thoughts.

(a) How is Noah's faith an example to you?

4. What does it mean to you that God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him?

