**Fixing Our Hearts on Jesus**

**Examples of Persevering in Faith Without Proof**

**Hebrews 11:1-16**

**Hebrews 12:1-3** - *Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

**I. Faith Means That We Will Not Have Proof (vv. 1-2)**

**Hebrews 11:1-2** *-* *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the men of old gained approval.*

**II. Each Example Died Before They Saw the Fulfillment (v. 13)**

**Hebrews 11:13** *- All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.*

**2 Peter 3:7-9** *-* *But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.*

**III. Each Example Longed for the Ultimate Promises (vv. 14-16)**

**Hebrews 11:14-16** *-* *For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.*

**Hebrews 11:6** *-* *And 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 seek Him.*

**IV. Five Personal Examples of Those Who Exercised Faith (vv. 3-12)**

**Hebrews 11:3** *- By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.*

Example #1: Abel (v. 4)

**Hebrews 11:4** *- By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.*

Example #2: Enoch (v. 5)

**Hebrews 11:5** *-* *By faith Enoch was taken up so that he would not see death; and he was not found because God took him up; for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God.*

**Jude 14-15** *- It was also about these men that Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, “Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones, to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”*

Example #3: Noah (v. 7)

**Hebrews 11:7** *-* *By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.*

Example #4: Abraham (vv. 8-10)

**Hebrews 11:8-10** *- By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.*

Example #5: Sarah (vv. 11-12)

**Hebrews 11:11-12** - *By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised. Therefore there was born even of one man, and him as good as dead at that, as many descendants as the stars of heaven in number, and innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.*