

# THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

## Thoughts for Today Blog # 215 “Journey of Faith”

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To start the new year (2020), this blog has a new name, new look, and a new location (church web page). For several years, the blog was published under the name The Belief & History of the Church of God Reformation Movement.

This year those in the Home Ave. church and others are reading from a calendar focusing on the walk of faith of those listed in Hebrews 11 and others of faith in the Bible. The readings start with Abraham in January and end with Jesus in December.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

The Message translates Hebrews 11:1-2 this way “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 act of faith is what distinguished our ancestors, set them above the crowd.”

The focus verse for the entire bible reading for 2020 is Hebrews 11:8 which says “By an act of faith, Abraham said yes to God’s call to travel to an unknown place that would become his home. When he left he had no idea where he was going. By an act of faith he lived in the country promised him, lived as a stranger camping in tents.”

Before we plunge right into looking at Abraham’s journey of faith, let’s take a closer look at Hebrews 11:1 which says “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”

It seems a little strange to start the chapter with the word now. This points back to the previous chapter and now is used as a transition to a new thought in chapter 11. And in this case, it is a conjunction. The Message ends Hebrews 10 this way “But we’re not quitters who lose out. Oh, no! We’ll stay with it and survive, trusting all the way.”

I like how the Message ends chapter 10. We are not quitters. Oh no! We will stay with it and survive, trusting all the way. We are persistent in our faith.

Hebrews 11:1 says we have confidence in what we hope for. We all have a good idea what confidence means but there is usually some confusion about the use of the word hope. The word hope can be used to mean I wish it comes true. In this case, it is more than a wish, it is a strong belief. It is a belief what we hope for will happen.

Then the scripture says we have an assurance about what we do not see. It has been said that it is sometimes difficult to believe what we do see let alone what we do not see. Things we cannot see but know they exist:

Gravity	Wind/Air/Oxygen
Sound	Heat
Emotions	Cold
Life	Magnetism
Smell	Radio Waves, Wi-Fi
Taste	Thoughts
Energy/Electricity	Imagination

We cannot see God nor many of the things of God but we believe. Come to think of it, most of things that are of God or eternal are not visible. It takes faith to see most, if not all, the things God has for us.

As I close this blog, I am reminded of a few words from the song that says We've come this far by faith leaning on the Lord trusting in His holy Word He never failed me yet.

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