

The Biceps of Persevering Faith

Hebrews 11

Faith is believing God for what is UNSEEN and faith is believing God during the trouble that is SEEN!

1. Faith is believing God for what is UNSEEN (1-16)

a. Faith defined

Common misunderstandings of faith

[1] A false belief in the strength of our faith

[2] A false subject of faith

b. Faith displayed

c. Faith clarified

2. Faith is continuing to believe God during the trouble that IS SEEN (17-40)

a. Faith in the face of certain death (17-23)

b. Faith enduring severe hardship (24-28)

c. Faith in spite of imposing barriers (29-31)

For Further Study and Reflection

The Story of Reality by Gregory Koukl

The Surprising Rebirth of Belief in God by Justin Brierley

Confronting Christianity by Rebecca McLaughlin

Small Group Questions:

1. What causes your faith to be fragile at times? In what ways do you attempt to defend your faith? In what ways do you strive to feed your faith?
2. What is the world's view of faith? What are some religious misunderstandings about faith?
3. How is faith defined in Hebrews 11?
4. What is the author's goal for his Hebrew audience by bringing out all these examples of faith?
5. Pastor Eric suggested that in this passage we see two muscles of faith working together to persevere. How did he describe these two aspects of faith? How do they work together?
6. If you were the first century church receiving this list of forerunners in faith, how would this impact you? (Remember, they were tempted to renounce Christ).

Series Summary: "Jesus is Greater"

- Better than the **prophets** (previous sources of revelation)
- Better than the **angels** (by whom the law was mediated to Israel)
- Better than **Moses** (who was a kind of savior)
- He offers a better **Sabbath** (His rest is greater)
- He is a better **High Priest** (in the order of Melchizedek simultaneously priest and king)
 - ...Offered a better **sacrifice**
 - ...In a better **sanctuary**
 - ...providing a better **covenant**