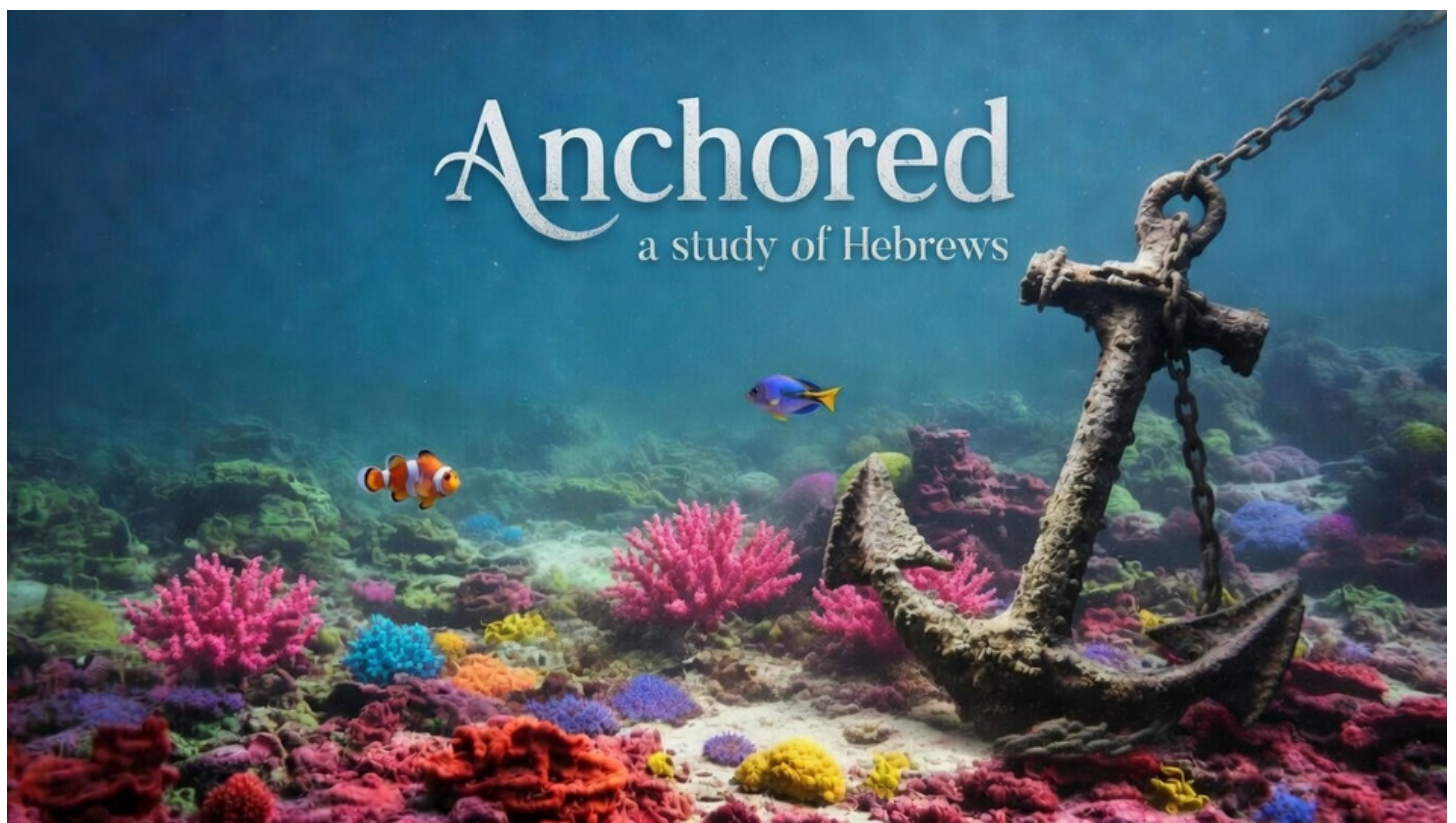




June 21, 2026

Anchored in Faith.

Hebrews 11:1-2 (NIV) *Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. 2 This is what the ancients were commended for...*

Hebrews 11:6-7 (NIV) *6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. 7 By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.*

Hebrews 11 will tell us about faith. Exactly what it is, and how a person acquires it.

- The first big idea Hebrews gives us, is that **faith is something we have to have.**

Look at 11:1. Every version translates this line differently:

- NIV: Faith is *confidence* in what we hope for, and *assurance* about what we do not see.
- ESV: Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
- KJV: Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
- Each version floats around a few ideas that are important.

Faith is knowledge.

- the writer of Hebrews says there is *evidence* involved in faith...the word *assurance* means to have a conviction of things that you haven't yet experienced and maybe can't even see yet..but you know it's true.
- A good example is your phone. Even though you can't see the magic waves carrying your texts and videos off into the air...it works. None of us understand how. We just know it does.
- So the starting block of faith is knowledge: you cannot believe what you do not know.

Faith is agreement.

- We could also use words like *assent* or *belief*. Part of faith is to say, *Yes I agree!*
- The word here in Hebrews is *confidence*. *Faith is the confidence of things hoped for.*
- It's a word that has to it the idea of a deed. When you buy a house, the assurance that you really own the property is in the deed.
- Whatever it is that we know, we must also agree to, for it to be faith.
- You can know about something, and even agree it's true, but still not have true faith
- There's a scripture in James where it says that demons believe in Jesus. They know all about Jesus. They have knowledge. And they even all agree that Jesus is God's Son. But do the demons who know of Jesus and agree about Jesus have faith in Jesus? No.
- So there's one more most important ingredient of true faith in God:

Faith is allegiance.

- This is the core of faith. The word is *Pistis*. It means trust, confidence, or reliability. The verb form is to have loyalty, or to show allegiance.
- Like a sports team gets our allegiance.
- The distinguishing factor between you and demons is not your knowledge of Jesus, it's not your agreement of who Jesus is, it's your allegiance to Jesus.
- Faith is the progression from Jesus is "a" Savior who "can save" to he's "my" savior who saved me!
- The difference is always obedience. *Obedience is the natural response/expression of faith.*

Hebrews 11 is a chapter full of people throughout the story of God who had faith. They knew of God. They agreed with God. And they pledged their allegiance to God by obeying God.

- Abel (4), Enoch (5), Noah (7), Abraham (8), Sarah (11), Joseph (22), Moses (23), Samson & David (32).
- And then a list of people so long they can't all be named. They had faith to shut the mouths of lions, and escape fire and sword. Some were tortured for their faith. They faced chains and prison for their faith. They were put to death by stoning. They were sawed in two. They were killed by the sword. They were chased around living in caves and holes in the ground. Why? For their faith.

- Vs 7: *Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.*
- Noah **knew** what God said. He **agreed** with what God said. And on the basis of what God said, he went about accomplishing what God said.
- The difference between everyone else in the world and Noah, was that everyone else in the world started getting serious about God just about the time the waters reached their rooftops.
- Noah, on the other hand, took God seriously the moment that he spoke. Noah had faith.
- Noah's actions weren't determined by what he saw, but by what God said.
- That's faith. And the floods came. The ark was built. Noah went inside. The ark lifted him above the flood. He was saved.
- Allegiance proves itself in obedience.

One of the really hard things to reconcile with the reality of God's grace is all the talk about judgement in scripture. (John 5:28-29; Romans 2:6-8; 1 Peter 1:17; Revelation 20:12)

- Why would God judge us in this way if we're saved by grace?
- Truth: Whatever we do consistently is what we will look like. Whatever you've wrapped your spiritual being around, that's what you'll look like.
- Your works will directly correspond to what you are faithful too. Our works show where our true allegiance lies.
- God will judge us according to our works because they are the visible and tangible expressions of our fidelity.
- If we are saved by grace and our allegiance is to Jesus and his saving work, then our actions will undoubtedly follow.

God says, in Hebrews 11, that without faith, it is *impossible* to please him.

- Allegiance always expresses itself in obedience.
- Do you have it? Do you have faith in God, in Jesus as Savior?
- I want to give you a test today, so you know where you're allegiance really is.
- It's to determine the question that you're asking in your head:
- It's either 1) "Is this all I have to do?" or 2) "What else can I do?"
- Faith/Trust/Allegiance in something or someone always manifests itself in a "what else can I do" kind of posture. Always.
- It's why Jesus looks like a Savior.
- Look at who he is: Hebrews 12:2 - *"the author and perfecter/finisher of our faith... and look at what he did....for the joy set before him, endured the cross."*
- God's Son, the author of life, had faith/allegiance toward you first, before you ever thought about allegiance to him.
- He loved you so much that He asked *"What else can I do"* until there was nothing left to do because that question took him to a cross. Only Jesus loved you enough to die for you.
- Is someone like that worthy of your faith? Yes.

Prayer: God, you ask for our faith. Because the greater the faith, the greater the relationship, and the stronger the relationship, the more trust and intimacy we can have with you. We understand that your heart's desire is that we would trust you in faith. We declare our allegiance to you once again today, in Jesus name...Amen.