

The Reality of Faith

Hebrews 11: 1 – 6

6 December 2020 A.M.

Series: Advent #2 Faith

Hebrews 11: 1 – 3

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

Hebrews 11: 4 - 6

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. 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. 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.

Faith Is V. 1.

- Assurance, substance, Reality – realization, surety or title deed.
 - The word in Greek is ὑπόστασις – is lit. under standing
 - That which undergirds, holds up or a foundation.
 - So faith and hope has a solid foundation.
- Conviction, evidence, testing, proof, or knowing
 - The word in Greek is ἔλεγχος – is lit a proof or test
 - Faith and hope is tested and proven.
 - And that is concerning things which are not material.

Faith Gains God's Approval V. 2, 4 - 5.

- The men of old (πρεσβύτεροι) gained approval by faith.
 - These men of old are listed from Vv. 4 – 39.
 - Consider Abel and Enoch.
- The point being made is that without faith it is impossible to please God, and all the heroes of Scripture are heroes due to their faith.
- In every case the hero simply believed what God told them and lived it out in their lives.

Faith's Beginnings Vv. 3, 6.

- Faith accepts Scripture's declaration that God spoke the world into existence.
 - What is visible and material was made out of the immaterial. (ex-nihilio)
- The basis of faith first accepts the existence of God.
- Then faith receives the reward of salvation (among other rewards) that can only be received by diligently seeking God.
- Faith comes by hearing the word of God. Romans 10: 17

Conclusion

- Faith and Biblical hope is undergirded by God's word so that we are more confident in what cannot be seen than even in what can be.
- Faith has no doubts about who or how God created and believes in His existence and rewarding for diligent seeking of Him.
- Faith begins with believing God's word as true, then walks with God in obedience to Him.
- Faith then is perfectly fitting in recognizing that God is not limited, and we can walk in faith doing all God calls us to do without being held back by our limitations.