

SERMON NOTES:

- Hebrews 11 is known as the “Hall of Faith”
 - Life has meaning because the same God who wants a relationship with us is also the Creator who spoke the world into existence. If we are here just because molecules developed by happenstance, there is no purpose or meaning. (Hebrews 11:3)
 - Noah’s Ark is more than a cute children’s story. Noah took massive action and endured sacrifice and ridicule, all for something he had not seen yet. (Hebrews 11:7)
 - The struggle of the “prosperous church” (much of Western civilization) is that we can become too comfortable here. The “persecuted church” has a better grasp that this world is not our home. (Hebrews 11:10, 11:13)
 - In the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus, the poor man lived for what he could not see and received eternal blessings. The rich man lived for what he could see, and it came to nothing in the end. (Luke 16:19-25)
 - We live in one of the most prosperous countries in all of human history that even has a strong Christian heritage. However, our ultimate aim is a country much higher. May we make a difference in our earthly country, but keep it in a perspective. (Hebrews 11:14-16, Luke 22:49-51)
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- The word faith appears 24 times in Hebrews 11
 - Hebrews 11:6
 - Living by Faith is more than a proclamation, it is a presentation!
1. Moses: Faith to be content with the Kingdom of God
 - a. Hebrews 11:23 Parents set the priority of faith in God
 - b. Hebrews 11:24-25 Personal Choice of faith over fear
 - c. Hebrews 11:26-27 The reward of Jesus is greater than the riches of the world
 2. Spiritual Products of True Faith
 - a. Hebrews 11:33-34 Supernatural events through simple faith in Almighty God
 - b. Hebrews 11:36-37 Serious persecution but the result is spiritual growth of the Kingdom
 - c. The process of living by faith is clear, but the price often deters from living it out; however, the product is worth the process.
- What step do YOU need to take to live by faith and stop living by fear?

GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. Read Hebrews 11:3. Our Christian worldview of creation should dictate and influence every area of our lives. How does our view of a Creator contrast from those who believe the world began by happenstance?
2. In what ways do Christians in America tend to live as if this world IS our home?
3. What hardships could Christians perceivably endure in our current culture?
4. Are we ready to choose our faith in a greater “city” over this physical world if it came down to it?
5. The word commend is used five times in Hebrews 11. It is the Greek word martureo which means to testify or provide witness for. Notice that faith produces a witness. You can’t have a witness without faith. How do the faith of the lives listed in Hebrews 11 reveal a witness of their relationship with God? How does God provide a witness for us (note verse 4)? How does the process of considered lead to being commended?
6. How did the faith of Moses affect the faith of the nation of Israel? Why did Moses choose to follow God rather than the path of Pharoah? Read the following passage from South Carolina’s State Constitution (1778) and describe how they viewed the work of God as compared to the work of the state: XXI. And whereas the ministers of the gospel are by their profession dedicated to the service of God and the cure of souls, and ought not to be diverted from the great duties of their function, therefore no minister of the gospel or public preacher of any religious persuasion, while he continues in the exercise of his pastoral function, and for two years after, shall be eligible either as governor, lieutenant-governor, a member of the senate, house of representatives, or privy council in this State. Serving in government is not a sin, but believers must guard against its power and preeminence. What are some ways that we have to protect against putting the kingdom of this world above the Kingdom of God?
7. Read Hebrews 12:1-2. How does the focus on Jesus provide strength to endure the persecutions of Hebrews 11:35-38? We often want the power listed in Hebrews 11:33-35 without paying a price. What testimony do you have that if Holy Spirit wrote a chapter of faith for the Church that your name would be listed? What step of obedience do you need to take to increase your faith? How are you impacting the next generation’s faith?