



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States



The Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews

Chapter 11

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Introduction

- St. Paul concluded chapter 10 by saying that the just lives by faith and also faith is important in saving the soul
- In chapter 11, St. Paul will elaborate more on faith and its effect in the life of the believer
- Special attention will be paid to the relation between faith and endurance of persecution
- Those who are considering apostasy to escape the pains of persecution, need such a message



Definition Of Faith (11:1-3)

- Faith is the confident assurance of the promises that we are hoping for
- It is an inner conviction about the things that can't be seen
- It is a life that does not wait for human evidence or proof, but accepts the word of God as totally sufficient evidence



Definition Of Faith (11:1-3)

- God approved such life (V. 2)
- The things faith believes in, that is the 'unseen', under God's hand, and at His word, will one day be 'seen' (V. 3)
- For the world, seeing is believing but for us, believing is confident in knowing even when we cannot see because the one who promised is reliable (Heb 10: 23)

Faith Before The Flood (11:4-7)



- Abel offered an excellent sacrifice because it was a blood sacrifice
- When we trust the Lord, the physical death will not stop us from speaking
- Enoch walked with God which means that he trusted Him (faith)

Faith Before The Flood (11:4-7)



- Confident trust is necessary if one wants to please God
- Noah, moved with godly fear, obeyed the warning of God about the “unseen”
- Noah’s obedience was the fruit of his faith and made him an heir of righteousness

Faith Of The Patriarchs (11:8-22)



- Obedience which is the evidence of faith is the emphasis of verse 8
- Faith is trusting God enough to obey Him
- Because of this trust, Abraham based his choices on the promise rather than on the fulfillment (V. 9)

Faith Of The Patriarchs (11:8-22)



- Sarah's faith provided strength and life from death
- We are so used to instant gratification
- Trusting God does not require Him to fulfill His promises here and now
- As strangers and pilgrims "here and now" fulfillment is not our homeland

Faith Of The Patriarchs (11:8-22)



- Their "homeland" was the city created by the promise of God
- When we trust God and His promises (V. 6), He will not be ashamed of us
- Do our choices make God ashamed to be called our God?

Faith Of The Patriarchs (11:8-22)



- The sacrifice of Isaac was a big test of faith because Abraham was asked to offer the only promise that was fulfilled “here and now”
- God asked him to give Isaac up and return to trust without seeing or possessing

Faith Of The Patriarchs (11:8-22)



- Trusting Him who promised should be more important than possessing the fulfillment of the promise
- Isaac by faith foresaw the coming of the Messiah from Jacob
- Second Adam will be the first fruit of the humanity

Faith Of The Patriarchs (11:8-22)



- Jacob also by faith blessed the second son and made the sign of the cross
- He also worshipped (believed in) the cross of the Lord
- Joseph believed in the unseen (Exodus) as a type for our deliverance from Satan

The Faith of Moses (11:23-29)



- The beauty of Moses was a sign of God's blessing on him (V. 23).
- Faith casts fear away from the heart
- When you grow up, what choices will you make? (V. 24)
- Are you going to be identified with people of God or of the world? (V. 24)

The Faith of Moses (11:23-29)



- To choose one is to reject the other, there is no middle ground
- Are you willing to risk your life, status, privilege, financial security, material possessions, and pleasure of sin for Christ?
- Where is your focus? Temporal or Eternal?

The Faith of Moses (11:23-29)



- V. 27 refers to the exodus.
- Faith frees the person from fear
- Moses trusted the Lord's protection for the firstborns, so he obeyed Him
- Disobedience → guilt → lack of trust to God because we are unworthy
- Not only did Moses obeyed but all of Israel did

Other Examples Of Faith (11:30-38)



- The encirclement of Jericho is a sign of their faith that was demonstrated through their obedience
- Rahab's faith was expressed when she said, "I know that the Lord has given you this land" (Joshua 2:9)

Other Examples Of Faith (11:30-38)



- The heroes of faith trusted and obeyed God even when the circumstances were not favorable
- Conquering kingdoms, administering justice, and obtaining the promises of God (judges)
- Shutting the mouths of lions (Daniel, Sampson, and David)

Other Examples Of Faith (11:30-38)



- Quenching raging fires (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego)
- The rest of V. 34 (judges and David)
- The women who received their dead back by resurrection (the two widows whose sons were restored to life by Elijah and Elisha)

Other Examples Of Faith (11:30-38)



- Faith is no protection against pain and persecution
- Isaiah was sawn in two
- The world is not a good enough place for people like them
- Only heaven really befits their faithfulness under horrible pressure

The Promise Is Christ (11:39, 40)



- If these heroes were able to live lives of trust and obedience without experiencing Christ (the promise)
- How much more should we, who have received Christ and the Holy Spirit live the faithful life?
- V. 40 All of us are one body and one church (Rev 6:11)



Conclusion

- What difference does it make whether or not you believe God will reward seekers? (V. 6)
- What would be the characteristics of a believer who lived his life as an "pilgrim" and "stranger" here on earth?
- How does faith affect our willingness to suffer?
- How does faith deal with instant gratification?