



Beyond The Waves

Understanding Biblical Faith

Week 1: What Is Biblical Faith?

Text: Hebrews 11:1–16 (NIV)

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Faith in a World of Uncertainty

We live in a world that values certainty. We want guarantees before commitment. We want clarity before obedience. We want to see the outcome before we step forward. In many ways, that instinct feels wise. But when we open Scripture, we quickly discover that biblical faith does not always work that way.

Hebrews 11 The Hall of Faith?

Hebrews 11 is often referred to as the Hall of Faith. While that label is well intentioned, it can unintentionally mislead us. If we read this chapter as a collection of spiritual heroes who achieved extraordinary things, **we may admire them without recognizing that the chapter is inviting us into the same way of life.**

By faith Abel _____

By faith Noah _____

By faith Abraham _____

By faith Moses _____

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Defining Biblical Faith

Hebrews 11:1 offers one of the most well known descriptions of faith in Scripture:

“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”

confidence: _____

assurance: _____

Faith Is More Than Mental Agreement

One of the dangers of reading Hebrews 11 too quickly is assuming that faith simply means believing certain things about God.

Noah did not simply believe that a flood was coming. _____

Abraham did not simply believe God’s promise. _____

Moses did not simply believe God cared about Israel. _____

Faith trusts God enough to live _____.

Faith Reaches Back into the Old Testament Story

One of the most important things to notice about Hebrews 11 is that it assumes the Old Testament story. In the Old Testament, faith is closely connected to the idea of faithfulness.

Faith is _____ **God’s promises.**

Faithfulness is living in _____ **to those promises over time.**

Faith Lives with Tension

Hebrews 11:13 offers one of the most honest statements about faith in all of Scripture:

“All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth.”

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Faith often means living with unresolved _____.

Faith does not _____ waiting. Faith gives waiting _____.

Faith Is Oriented Toward God's Future

Hebrews 11 repeatedly emphasizes that faith looks _____.

Verse 10 describes Abraham as looking forward to a city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

God's people live differently because they _____ where the story is headed.

Bringing Faith into Our World

Our modern Western context often trains us to trust what we can measure, predict, or control. Faith challenges that instinct.

Faith shows up in how we _____ decisions without guarantees

Faith shows up in _____ that costs something

Faith shows up in _____ when prayers are not answered quickly

Faith does not mean ignoring wisdom or evidence. It means anchoring our lives in God's promises rather than visible outcomes.

A Definition

Biblical faith is _____ God enough to _____ before we can see the outcome.

Challenge for the Week

Identify one area of your life where God may be calling you to live faithfully before you can see the outcome, and take one obedient step of trust.

Scripture Acknowledgement:

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