

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 2/27-28/2023 Hebrews 11:1-29

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS107, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQOT09>

Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 - Passcode: 087484

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,87858644763# US (San Jose) +13462487799,,87858644763# US (Houston)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C); +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 929 436 2866 US (New York);

Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQOT09>

TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746?pwd=TK5oVjN0TzdpWjE3UC9Oam05a21uQT09>

Meeting ID: 853 0915 0746 - Passcode: 715340

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,85309150746# US (San Jose) +12532158782,,85309150746# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose); +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C); +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 929 436 2866 US (New York);

Meeting ID: 853 0915 0746

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746?pwd=TK5oVjN0TzdpWjE3UC9Oam05a21uQT09>

HAVING TROUBLE LOGGING INTO Zoom? <https://www.technipages.com/troubleshooting-zoom-login-errors>

Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 www.ptwente.com - For Audio & notes from previous studies -

OPENING PRAYER

Chapter 11 – By Faith We Understand – vs. 1-3; Faith at the Dawn of History – vs. 4-7; Faithful Abraham – vs. 8-12; The Heavenly Hope – vs. 13-16; The Faith of the Patriarchs – vs. 17-22; The Faith of Moses – vs. 23-29; By Faith They Overcame – vs. 30-40.

- Hebrews, chapter eleven – Continuing the subject of *THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH*.
- Chapter ten ends with: (*Heb 10:38*) *NOW THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; BUT IF ANYONE DRAWS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM.*" The apostle quotes that striking word from Habakkuk, "*The just shall live by faith.*" That sentence really forms the text of which Hebrews chapter 11, is the sermon.
- The central design of this chapter is to show and encourage us of the patience, endurance, of those who, in former ages, endured by faith, before they received the fulfillment of God's

promise. Don't think that God is asking something extraordinary of you that He has not asked of His people all through the ages! It has always required faith. It has always required endurance!

- **It was never a question of knowing what God wanted, that was clearly understood in every case, but it was the action that was taken in faith of what was promised, but yet hadn't happened!**
- **(Heb 10:39) But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe (have faith) to the saving of the soul.**

By Faith vs, 1-7 tell us what "Faith" (in God) is! Vs. 8-40 tell us how "Faith" works!

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substance (realization) of things hoped for, the evidence (confidence, conviction) of things not seen. (NKJV)

(Heb 11:1) Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see. (NLT)

- **Substance of things hoped for, there is substance to faith.** Evidence of things not seen. It is believing God to keep His word, though there may not be any evidence of it at the moment. All I have is the promise of God, but that is sufficient! And I rest on that!
- **We remember Elijah, (1Ki 18:1) And it came to pass after many days that the word of the LORD came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, "Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth."** Elijah went up to the top of Mt. Carmel and began to pray that God would send rain. He sent his servant out to look toward the sea. He came back and said, I don't see anything but blue sky. He prayed again. He sent the servant back again. He came back and said, I do not see anything but blue sky. He continued to pray until the servant came back and said I see a small cloud about the size of a man's hand. Elijah said, let's get out of here, it's going to rain. *The substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

Heb 11:2 For by it (by faith) the elders obtained a good testimony.

- **The elders, the fathers, the patriarchs. It was through faith;** they obtained a good report.
- **As we are told of the OT saints' faith in the promises to come, are such a strong testimony,** how much better, the perfect thing God has provided for us, so much greater ought to be the joy and the holiness and the nearness to God, and the power of our lives! Is it so?

Heb 11:3 By faith (19x in Hebrews) we understand that the worlds (ages) were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

- **God said, let there be light, and there was light!** The universe was created by what we call the divine fiat. That is, God spoke it into existence. We believe this through faith. We understand the worlds were framed by the word of God. That is, the material universe.
- **Here is an interesting statement, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.** A very fascinating statement because they did not know anything at that time about atomic particles, electrons, protons and so forth, these invisible things, the atoms that make up the material universe. Yet, by faith, they believed that the things that are seen were made of things that are not seen!
- **Now he begins to list a hall of faith. Men, who believed the promise of God and the Word of God, demonstrating in their lives, their acting on that faith, were honored** because of their faith in God!

Heb 11:4 By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it, he being dead still speaks.

- **He begins with Abel, the first one who is declared, to be accounted righteous because of his faith! We know the story of Cain and Abel,** how that they brought their offerings to the Lord. Abel brought a lamb out of his flock and Cain brought the fruit of the ground. We read that the Lord accepted Abel's sacrifice, but He rejected Cain's.
- **Here in the Book of Hebrews, it tells us that basically Able was offering a more excellent**

sacrifice than *Cain*, **because of faith!** It is the difference between offering in faith and not offering in faith that made a difference before God, causing Him to accept Abel's and reject *Cain*'s! Able brought the sacrificial lamb. *Cain*, not really believing, brought the fruit of the ground. But we know the difference is that of faith! *Abel*, by faith, offered the more excellent sacrifice than *Cain*!

- ***By that, he obtained the witness that he was righteous.*** From the beginning, God accounted faith for righteousness. It begins way back with *Able*! Persecuted by *Cain*'s self-righteousness, his works.
- ***Through it he being dead still speaks:*** Beginning with the example of *Abel*, the writer reminds us that faith is not necessarily rewarded on earth. However, God Himself testifies to the righteousness of the faithful. *Abel*'s blood still speaks to us, reminding us of the value of eternity! Notice how the testimony of a believer's life surpasses his period of lifetime on earth! *Abel* was killed for his testimony, but his name lives on!
- ***In the Old Testament, their faith was looking forward. God had promised Eve, (Gen 3:15) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.*** That is, the promise of the Messiah, who would defeat Satan's power. When *Cain* was born, Eve named him *Cain*, because she said, I have received **the man** from the Lord. She really thought that *Cain* would be **the Messiah!** That God was going to immediately make provision for their sin. The Old Testament saints believed the promise that God would send the Messiah into the world. They looked forward to that event. They believed that the Messiah would suffer and die for sin.
- ***We are accounted righteous by faith, not by works!*** But our faith, looks back at the cross and at the sacrifice that Jesus made for our sins. As we have been studying through Hebrews, we have seen the cross of Jesus and the sacrifice that He has made. We have seen how His one-time sacrifice is so superior to the first covenant under the law, the sacrifices of the animals and all, because it was not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could put away sin, all they could do was cover. But Jesus, through His death, put away our sins! We look back at the cross! As we believe in Jesus, God accounts our faith for righteousness!
- ***So, in the Scriptures, Abel is the first one who is declared, to be accounted righteous*** because of his faith!

Heb 11:5 By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "AND WAS NOT FOUND, BECAUSE GOD HAD TAKEN HIM"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

- ***In the fifth chapter of the Book of Genesis, we have the generations.*** They lived so many years, and they begot. And they lived after that so many years and they begot sons and daughters and they died. It goes on and he died, and he died and he died, until you get to Enoch. He lived sixty-five years, and he begot Methuselah. After having Methuselah, Enoch lived for another three hundred years, begetting sons and daughters, and he was not because God took him!
- ***By faith Enoch was taken that he should not see death;*** and was not found, because God had taken him: ***for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.*** We read that, in Genesis, Enoch walked with God and was not. Now by the time that Enoch came along, the world was becoming quite sinful. But here is a man who walked with God in the midst of a sinful people.
- ***According to one old legend, Enoch would take a daily walk with God.*** God would meet him every morning and Enoch would walk with God, and fellowship with God. One morning, God said to Enoch, let's walk a little further today. Bring your lunch along. So, Enoch took his lunch. They walked and had lunch together. They continued to walk until finally Enoch said, it is getting late, Lord. We had better head for home. And the Lord said, we are closer to My house, than yours! Just come on home with Me!
- ***(Gen 5:22) After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters.*** Just consider, we may think about caving under the pressure of a Christ rejecting world, being in this world for only a short time. Think about Enoch's faithful walk for

300 years at a time when, (*Gen 6:5*) *Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.* A real picture of faithfulness and endurance! What an encouragement!

- **Enoch was a prophet.** Jude quotes one of his prophecies that is not recorded in the Bible. (*Jud 1:14-15a*) *Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men (false teachers) also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, [15a] to execute judgment on all.* Enoch, the man of faith.
- **Enoch begot Methuselah, whose name meant** "In the year of his death, it shall come," perhaps a prophecy, concerning the judgment of God upon the earth with the flood. His testimony was that he pleased God!

***Heb 11:6* But 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 diligently seek Him.**

- **How God is pleased when we put our trust and our faith in Him!** It pleases God! It would seem to me that it would naturally then follow, the converse would be, God is displeased when we don't trust in Him, when we doubt His promises, when we live in fear and anxiety. Surely throughout the Bible, we are encouraged and exhorted to trust in the Lord with all of our hearts, not to lean on our own understanding. To put our faith and confidence in the promises of God. Trust in the Lord, over and over, we are exhorted to trust in the Lord.
- **Without faith, it is impossible to please Him. Enoch pleased God because he had faith.** Without such faith, it is not possible for anyone to "walk with God" or "please Him" (*Heb 10:38*) ***NOW THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; BUT IF ANYONE DRAWS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM.***
- **He is. The emphasis here is on "He," the true God.** Genuine faith does not simply believe that a divine being exists, but that the God of Scripture is the only real and true God who exists!
- **A rewarder. A person must believe not only that the true God exists, but also that He will reward** people's faith in Him with forgiveness and righteousness, because He has promised to do so. (*Gen 15:1*) *After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."*
- **Without faith it is impossible to please God, for he who comes to God must believe that He is.** First, and second, he must believe ***and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*** God does exist. He does reward those who diligently seek Him! We need to remember that there is a reward for those who diligently seek Him!

***Heb 11:7* By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.**

- **Noah is the next one who is mentioned. Now, we have a contrast.** Enoch was not, because God translated him. As such he became a type of the church, that is raptured before the judgment comes.
- **The flood was God's judgment upon the sinful world.** (*Gen 6:7-8*) *So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them. [8] But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.*
- **Noah held fast to God's word.** Simply to listen to what God says, and in the obedience of faith to give up our whole heart and life to carry out! This is faith!
- **God told Noah to build this large ship.** He gave him the dimensions, commanding him then to bring the animals, two of each kind, into this ship, that they might survive the great flood that God was going to send upon the earth. In the face of ridicule and scoffing, Noah was about a hundred years in building the ship. Think about that! How about our faithfulness in our preparing for God's coming judgment!
- **What an interesting, illustrated sermon!** People no doubt came all over to see this huge ship that this eccentric old man was building out in the wilderness, the desert area. When you would

ask this old man, what in the world are you building this thing for? He would tell you, there is going to be a flood! Now before this, it had not rained upon the earth! No doubt, they thought that he was crazy. But he warned them, the judgment of God is going to come! God is going to destroy the earth with a flood!

- **Now Noah becomes the type of the hundred and forty-four thousand**, who are sealed by God in the Book of Revelation, in order that they might survive the Great Tribulation, not be hurt, by the judgment that God will be pouring out upon the earth. He sealed the servants of God in the forehead, that when these winds are released upon the earth, they will not be hurt by them. Noah becomes a type of the one hundred forty-four thousand Israelites, whom God will seal to take them through the Great Tribulation, where Enoch becomes the type of the church who is raptured before the Great Tribulation.
- **Noah, acting on faith, warned! Now, someone said he preached** for a hundred and twenty years and had no converts. No, he did have converts--his three sons and their wives! If you have children, you have a primary ministry to your children. If you can lead your children into the Kingdom, you have done well! So, he brought his children into the safety of the ark.
- **But again, he became the heir of righteousness which is of faith.** So again, the righteousness that God imputes to a person because of their faith. The righteousness of standing in the right relation to God, of a life of which faith is the root and power. Righteousness of faith in the sight of God. It gives Him His place as God, in it the soul confesses that it is nothing, and that God is all! This faith God counts for righteousness!

Heb 11:8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

(Gen 15:6) And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

- **Abraham, the obedience of faith!** There is no child of Adam who is held in honor by such a large portion of the human race as Abraham. Jews, Christians, Mohammedans, all look up to him as the father of the faithful. God honors him as His friend! If anyone, this hero of the obedience of faith can tell us what the secret is of a life of faith! It was by faith that not only saw the land and the promise connected with it, afar off, but saw the living God near to fulfil the promise, that Abraham obeyed.
- **The call of God is always accompanied by the promise.** True faith in the promise is always joined to obedience to the call. Obedience is of the very essence of faith. Faith is always the power by which a man gives himself up to an unseen object, receiving it into his heart and being. It is in the very nature of things impossible, to receive God without receiving His will.
- **By faith Abraham obeyed.** Consider how hard it would be to be called to leave all our comforts of home, prosperity, traditions and worship of his fathers, friendships and go anyplace else, even if we knew where we were going. Think of Abraham's obedience to move, not knowing anything about where he was going, or for how long! We have seen how it was by obedience, by the doing of God's will, the Son Himself was perfected, and perfected us, becoming the Author of salvation to them that obey Him! Let us learn that obedience is the very life of faith and is the only way into the Holiest! Let immediate, unreserved, joyful obedience be the one thing our heart is set upon! And let it especially manifest itself in this, one of the root principles of God's will, His call to come out and be separate, giving ourselves to walk with Him wherever He leads.

Heb 11:9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;

- **By faith he dwelt in the land of promise.** He journeyed **not knowing where he was going**, leaving the comforts of home, but to dwell in tents! When he got there, he knew where he was. He knew this is the land.
- **He dwelt in the land of promise, as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:** God repeated the *promise* to Isaac and then He repeated the *promise* to Jacob. So, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as He is often referred to.

Heb 11:10 *for he waited for the city which has foundations (not just tents), whose builder and maker is God.*

- **He was looking the Kingdom of God.** He was looking for the city of God.
- **Let us hear the voice calling us out to Himself, to close fellowship, to obedience, as of the angels in heaven, to be a testimony and a blessing for the world! Am I? Let it be said of us too! By faith he obeyed** as he went out, sojourning in the land of promise, for he looked for a *city*.

Heb 11:11 *By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age (she was over ninety years old!), because she judged Him faithful who had promised.*

- **By faith, she received strength to conceive at that old age** because she judged Him faithful, who had promised. That is the whole thing. You see God is faithful. We may not have faith. Our faith may waiver, but God who has promised, is faithful! That is the thing you can count on!
- **Sarah knew what God had promised.** For years, her heart yearned for the son of whom God had spoken. At times, her faith was sorely tried, but she always came back to this one thing. He is faithful that promised! Do we believe that? In due time God did His omnipotent, quickening work. Sarah received power to become the mother of Isaac and of Jesus! Down through the ages her voice of witness is heard. Trust God! He is faithful! He is the living God! He gives life from the dead!
- **Faith is the power by which we accept into our being, yielding ourselves up,** becoming one with the object our heart clings to and responds to, depending upon what God has spoken to us in His Son, which is the great promise to us. May we look to the Son, to the faithful One, who is the great promise to us! We shall receive power to receive and bring forth the new life that is of God. May we take the place before God that Sarah did as one dead, hopelessly, helplessly, dead as far as the prospect of bringing forth a new life was concerned but counting upon it that God would do His work!

Heb 11:12 *Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.*

- **The faith of Abraham and Sarah,** and from them, all of the descendants, innumerable.

Heb 11:13 *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*

- **These,** Abraham, Enoch, and Noah and all, **died in faith, not having received the promises.** The promises of what? The promises of the Messiah and the Kingdom of God! They believed it! They looked forward to it. They had the promises of God, and they believed the promises of God, but they died in faith, not having received the promise of the Messiah.
- **But having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them. They held onto them.** They had the promise of the Messiah. They believed it and they hung on to it! God will send His Son, the Savior into the world! Seeing, embracing, and receiving are the three great steps in the life of faith!
- **And confessed. This is not our home!** The world is not our home! This kingdom of man is not our home. We are citizens of the Kingdom of God!

Heb 11:14 *For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland.*

Heb 11:15 *And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return.*

Heb 11:16 *But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.*

- **They confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.** But they do not want to

return! They do not want to go back into the world and into the world system.

- **Paul said, our citizenship is in heaven, from whence we look for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!** *They desire a better country, that is, a heavenly wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for He has prepared a city for them.* They were looking for that city—the Kingdom of God. It is interesting that Jesus spoke to His disciples so much about the coming Kingdom of God. The city, the new Jerusalem, that God will send from heaven.
- **Our great lesson is this, faith makes us pilgrims and strangers here on earth,** such as it was for Christ it is for us. The moment we began to press home the message to our own heart many questions arise. We may safely leave to Him, what will come of obedience to His commands. To every question what shall we do? What will others do? Christ's answer is, what is that to you? Follow Me! If we are disciples of Christ, each of us must seek to have as much of His spirit as we can. If we are to be led by Him in this new and living way, to live with Him in the Holiest of All, we must, like Him, live here as pilgrims and strangers.

Heb 11:17 *By faith Abraham, when he was tested (the supreme trial), offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,*

- **The promise was, through Isaac shall your seed be called!** When Abraham was about a hundred years old, Sarah was about ninety, they had not yet had a child between them. A few years earlier, Sarah, had more or less given up, a lapse of faith. She said, Abraham, obviously we are not going to be able to have a child. Go into my Egyptian maid, impregnate her. She will become a surrogate mother. Hagar bore a child, calling his name Ishmael. When he was about thirteen years old, God repeated the promise to Abraham, saying I'm going to give you a son. Abraham, loving Ishmael, said, let Ishmael live before the Lord. In other words, Lord, that is all right. You know, I have given up. Let Ishmael live before You. God repeated the promise. He said through Sarah shall your seed be called. Ishmael is not going to be the heir of the promise.
- **Now, it is interesting that when God called Abram to offer Isaac, (Gen 22:2) Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.** God ignored Ishmael. We know that Ishmael was the product of human effort, the flesh! God does not recognize the works of the flesh. Often we make the mistake of offering to God, our works of the flesh. We need to realize, God doesn't even recognize them, only the work of the Spirit!
- **Abraham began to journey for three days from Hebron until they came to Jerusalem.** There, at Mt. Moriah, the Lord showed to him that Mount! We know the story, a beautiful story of God's provision and Abraham's prophecies. **(Gen 22:8,12-14) And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together. [12] And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou anything unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me. [14] And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah Jireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen. (KJV) Not by accident, nor by co-incidence, it was on Mt. Moriah, that Jesus Christ was crucified two thousand later, when God gave His only begotten Son as a sacrifice for our sin!**

Heb 11:18 *of whom it was said, "IN ISAAC YOUR SEED SHALL BE CALLED,"*

Heb 11:19 *concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.*

- **Abraham was old and Sarah had gone through the menopause. So, Isaac was really a miracle child,** to be sure. He was, sort of in a figure, from the dead. But yet Abraham believed that if God could give me the son, He could raise him from the dead, if I obey the command of God to offer him as a sacrifice! What faith! There had never been any example or promise of resurrection, yet given to Abraham! Are we holding on to our promised resurrection with such faith?

Heb 11:20 *By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.*

- **In the blessings, the prophecies over them. Isaac was not a perfect man**, but he stood for his giving his first blessing to Jacob, even though he was deceived, thinking that he was blessing Esau, the first born, when he actually blessed Jacob.

Heb 11:21 By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.

- **We remember that at the stream of Jabbok when he was wrestling with the angel** of the Lord. As the result of that wrestling match, the angel touched his thigh. The muscle shriveled and Jacob became a cripple as a result of that encounter with the angel. He then had to use a crutch.
- **When Joseph brought his two sons to his father, Jacob, Jacob was old now, having lost his sight.** He was *leaning on his staff*. Joseph brought his two sons, with the older one standing on Joseph's left so that when Jacob would put his hands on the sons to bless them, the right hand would go, with the greater blessing, on the older son, Manasseh. But Jacob crossed his hands, putting his right hand on Ephraim and his left hand on Manasseh. Joseph said, no, no dad, and started to move his hands. Jacob said, I know what I am doing son, leave me alone. So, even though there was no appearance of the fulfilment of these things, and it was not likely that he should see them, he blessed the sons of Joseph by faith!

Heb 11:22 By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.

- **In Egypt, Joseph was made one of the leaders.** The Israelites came down. There was this vision that Abraham had. God interpreted the vision that his descendants would go into Egypt for four hundred years and after that God would deliver them. They knew that the promised land was the land of Canaan. It was not Egypt.
- **Joseph, by faith, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones.** When God delivers you out of Egypt and you go to possess the land, that God has promised to our father, Abraham, I want you to take my bones. By faith, Joseph commanded that the children of Israel take his bones with them and bury them in the land of promise. He knew all about the glory of Egypt, but his faith in God's promise of delivering Israel is so prominent that it is the only thing mentioned, just wanting to be with God's people forever in the promised land!

Heb 11:23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command.

- **They were risking their lives, because they saw he was a beautiful child, they were not afraid of the king's commandment.** Pharaoh began to get worried because the Egyptians were having few children. The Israelites were having lots of kids. They were healthy and strong. Pharaoh realized that the Israelis will soon outnumber us. He ordered when a child was born, if it were a boy, they were to cast it into the river, drowning it. If it were a girl, to keep it because she could be a servant girl. But when Moses was born, there was that edict of the Pharaoh, but they saw that he was a beautiful child, and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.

Heb 11:24 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,

- **We know the story. He was placed in a little basket in the Nile River.** The Pharaoh's daughter came down into the river to bathe. They heard a baby crying. They saw the basket. So, she commanded one of her girls to fetch the basket out of the river. Here was this beautiful baby boy.
- **His older sister, Miriam was hiding and watching to see what would happen** to her little brother. She ran up to Pharaoh's daughter, saying would you like me to get a nursemaid for your little child? She said, oh yes, would you? Miriam ran and told her mother, saying, I got you a job. So they were able to raise Moses and be paid for it by the Pharaoh. He became sort of the adopted son of Pharaoh's daughter. But by faith Moses, when he was come to years, *refused to*

be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

Heb 11:25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,

Heb 11:26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

- **Moses realized that the pleasures of sin are not lasting.** They are only for a season. Because he had a respect unto the eternal issues, he made the wise choice of identifying with God's people rather than to live in the wealth and luxury of the world, because you are only going to live for a certain number of years here on this earth. Then, **you are going to spend eternity, either with God or apart from God!** What a lesson for us!
- **Moses took the worst thing that God had to offer—the reproach of Christ.** People will reproach you when they know you believe in Jesus Christ. They will sneer. They will mock. They will make fun of that position. That is probably the worst thing that we face, is the reproach of the world because of our faith in Jesus Christ.
- **But Moses took the worst that the Lord had to offer him, comparing it with the best that the world had to offer him,** which were the treasures of Egypt. But he esteemed the worst that God has, is better than the best that the world has, because he looked at the eternal aspects!
- **Our problem, all too often, is that are looking only at the things, which are seen.** But they are temporal. The things which are not seen, they are the eternal things. But too rarely do we go beyond just what we can see, not looking beyond, at the eternal things, the spiritual things!
- **For he looked to the reward. He could see the long-term effect.** (Psa 73:24-26) *You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward receive me to glory. [25] Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You. [26] My flesh and my heart fail; But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.* Moses got the eternal perspective, and it changed the whole picture, as it will with us when we catch the eternal perspective!

Heb 11:27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.

- **He has his eyes on the Lord** and on the promises of God and the eternal life that God had promised! **He endured as seeing Him who is invisible.**
- **Never say regarding a believer's faith, that it is a blind faith, no, no, no!** There is no such thing as blind faith in God. The man of faith actually sees much more than a man who has no faith! He only sees what is visible and obvious, but the man of faith sees far beyond and sees much more! We see here how faith weighs and evaluates in the example of Moses.

Heb 11:28 By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them.

- **Through faith he kept the Passover. That is, when God ordered the children of Israel** when He was going to slay the firstborn in the land of Egypt, the final climatic place by which the Pharaoh would then say “go.” *Get out, and all the people that follow you!* God said, in order that the children of Israel not suffer the loss of the first born, that they take a lamb out of your flock of the first year. Kill it. Put the blood in a basin. Take a bit of hyssop, sprinkle blood upon the lentils of the doorposts of the house. In the night, when I pass through the land, when I see the blood upon the door, I will pass over that house! The word Passover, then. I will pass over that house!
- **And the sprinkling of blood,** It's interesting, sprinkle the blood on the lentils and the doorpost. It would mean the blood was sprinkled in the shape of a cross on the doors of the houses. And God said when I see that, I will pass over the house.

Heb 11:29 By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned.

- **That great experience of God delivering them,** bringing them through the Red Sea. Now we

go beyond the times of the books of the law, we come to Joshua. (*Exo 14:13*) *And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever.*

- **They all believed God. They all had a good report.** They endured all kinds of things. They had all kinds of victory, yet they did not receive the promise. The promise of what? The promise of the Kingdom of God, the promise of the Messiah! They were looking forward to Him. They believed in Him, but they did not receive the promise! **We have received the promise! The Messiah has come! Hallelujah!**
- **The OT saints had only the promise. We have the thing promised!** We have the divine reality, the full inheritance of what were to them only the good things to come. The promise was sufficient to make them live a wonderful life of faith. **How much more should the effect be in our lives of having received the promises themselves?**
- **Our whole epistle was written to set before us the glory of the better, the perfect thing,** God has provided for us in Christ. Shall we not listen to the witness of the heroes of our faith in the days when the sun has not yet risen, and let ourselves be ashamed out of our worldliness and lukewarmness?
- **If we will but yield ourselves to the glorious perfection truths of our epistle, the perfection of our High Priest, and His work, and press on into it, He to whom it has been given to work His work in us in the power of an endless life, and so to save completely, will reveal in us that better and perfect thing as we have never yet known it!**
- **By faith they obtained the promises.** By faith, the fulfillment of every promise will be made true to us in the power of the Holy Spirit who comes from the throne of our great High Priest! May God reveal to us what Abraham's going out from his country, what Moses' choice of suffering and reproach, what Israel's leaving Egypt means. If we are ready to forsake all, we shall inherit all! Wow! May we search the Scriptures, evaluating our faith in light of each OT saint's experience!
- **Oh, the faith of our fathers! Let us sing that old hymn together, Faith of our Fathers** living still.

CLOSING SONG:

FAITH OF OUR FATHERS – Frederick Faber/H. Henry – Tabernacle Choir (2:42/2:45)

*Faith of our fathers, living still, In spite of dungeon, fire, and sword;
Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy Whene'er we hear that glorious Word!*

Refrain: Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death.

*Faith of our fathers, we will strive To win all nations unto thee;
And through the truth that comes from God, Mankind shall then be truly free. (Refrain)*

We will be true to thee till death.

CLOSING PRAYER:

Read and meditate over *Hebrews Chapter 11:30 - Chapter 12!*