

B. The Superiority of the Life of Faith

Hebrews 11

1. A general note:

The insertion of this chapter in the Book of Hebrews is a bridge, so to speak from what we believe to how we ought to live. Faith is the grounds for both aspects. It is our willingness to believe in the Lord Jesus that gives grounds for life and it is our willingness to believe that gives quality to life. The chapter naturally carries us from one point to the other. The tie is made in Hebrews 10:28 with the cross reference to the Old Testament and the books of Romans and Galatians as well. "The just shall live by faith.." and this is in marked contrast to the teaching and the desires of the "judaizers" or other legalists who taught that something more than Christ was needed to please God.

I divide the chapter into three sections and offer only very brief notes for each...just getting the historical backgrounds and contexts for all would be another course!

2. The Necessity of Faith 11:1-6

- a. It is the willingness to believe God and do what He says..11:1-2
- b. It is foundational to our existence 11:3
- c. It is fundamental to our worship 1:4
- d. It is basic to our living 1:5
- e. It is "sine qua non" in our relationship with God

Faith is not the proverbial "leap in the dark" but rather a calculated willingness to believe and to act on that belief in trust. It is rooted in the observations of God's power, goodness, and benevolent will.

3. The Examples of Faith 11:7-38

- a. Noah 7
- b. Abraham 11:8-10, 17-19
- c. Sara 11:11-12
(Note the interesting parenthetical section 11:13-16)
- d. The patriarchs: Isaac, Jacob, Joseph 11:20-22
- e. Moses 11:23-29
- f. Joshua (not by name but incident) 11:30
- g. Rahab 11:31 (faith works for Gentiles, you see!)
- h. Judges, Kings, Prophets 11:32
- i. General examples of faith products 11:33-38

4. The Consequences of Faith 11:39-40

- a. The good report
- b. The united company of believers.