

Faith's Focus *Hebrews 11:1-7*

“The invisible takes the initiative and wakens faith; faith receives the impression and seeks forever fuller union with it. Faith is thus much more than trust in the word of another. That trust is of extreme importance as its initial exercise, but the word must only be a servant leading in to the divine truth it contains, the living person from whom it comes. To deal exclusively with the word as the ground of faith will lead to a faith that is more intellectual than spiritual, a faith that, as the church so universally shows, rests more in the wisdom of men, in the power of reason, than in the power of God. We need to be persuaded very deeply that faith is not only a dealing with certain promises but an unceasing spiritual communion with the unseen world around us. Just as in breathing, our lungs (or in seeing, our eyes) hold themselves open to receive unceasingly, from the air (or the light), what they without ceasing in the literal sense press upon us, so faith is the unceasing reaching out heavenward of that spiritual sense to which things future and unseen reveal themselves as near and present, as living and powerful. Faith must in the spiritual life be as natural, as unceasing as our breathing and seeing when we are doing our ordinary work.” Andrew Murray

- I. Faith is a venture into the unknown, a journey that leads to places where only God can take us. It begins upon salvation, and it takes us down one path, the path of righteousness. There is only one person capable of leading us, Christ Himself. He's the One we are to stay focused on so that we don't stumble off the path and get into perilous trouble. He doesn't go before us silently, instead he explains to us the righteousness we are seeing as we journey with Him. He provides for us a beautiful panoramic picture of what the blessings of true faith give because of our love for and trust in Him. That's what it means to walk with Him. To walk with him means that we stay focused on Him alone as the one who will lovingly and safely take us through this life into His glorious kingdom.

Hebrews 11:1-2

Hebrews 10:37-38

Rev. 2:2-5

Rev. 3:20

Eph. 3:16-19 *16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

- II. Jesus says, “no man comes to the Father lest I draw him.” Jesus drew us unto salvation in different ways. He primarily drew us through the witness of the Scriptures. He also drew us through the power of the Spirit by opening the eyes of our hearts to see our need for a Savior. Yet there was one source that had been speaking to us all along, that had been working in our minds and hearts from birth, and it was the witness of His fabulous creation. He was speaking to us through the wonderment of what He spoke into existence. It was working in our minds and hearts waiting for just the right moment to be fully revealed as to its source through faith. The power He displayed by merely speaking creation into existence is the same power that sustains us and works in us for His glory.

Heb. 11:3

Rom. 1:19-20

Gen. 1:1-26

Rom. 10:17

John 1:1-5 *1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

- III. The examples of the men and women of faith we are given in Hebrews 11 stem from a deep-set reverence for God. They worshipped and loved Him, walked with Him, trusted, and obeyed Him and it's seen in how they lived their lives. Real faith transforms lives by getting the focus off us and putting it on Christ. Abel's faith speaks of the obedient worship of the heart that offers God's the best we have as the first fruits of our heart toward Him. Enoch's faith is an example of how true faith walks with God. He pleased God by earnestly walking in His ways, by conversing with Him, listening to Him, being obedient to Him, and by loving, adoring, and living for Him. Noah's faith exemplifies obedient faith while living in an exceedingly wicked world. He did what God wanted him to do no questions asked knowing that God's ways are the only ways to live by. `

Heb. 11:4-7

Gen. 4:1-9

Rom. 12:1-2

Gen. 5:21-24

Gen. 6:9

Gen. 6:22