



We Believe

Hebrews 11:1 *“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”*

Two people are standing in the quiet moonlight just gazing into each others eye. The air is electric. They have faith in the love they share. Yet, two months down the road there is a misunderstanding. One cannot stand the sight of the other. There is a different kind of electricity in the air now. One has faith that they will work it out, while the other is suddenly doubtful. Clearly (for one) faith is confidence in what they hope for. For the other, they are losing faith because they cannot see love anymore. This lover has lost hope in the relationship.

I think the human frailty of love is exactly why God remains unseen. God says I will not prove my love in what you want. You will not see my love. Instead, my love of creation will transcend the physical. It will bypass our feelings. Someway and somehow our faith in God is build on something more. Something deeper than human attributes. You cannot search for Gods love. Your faith must not be built on owning an idol like a cross. What then is faith? The Bible knows.

Hebrews 11:2 *“This is what the ancients were commended for.”* Paul is no dummy. He could see faith being displayed in the ancients. A faith that is hard to define. They just had it. This series will study the faith of the ancients mentioned in Hebrews 11. Clearly, these saints were set apart because their faith could not be pinned down. Yet, this thing called faith is so

powerful. It has moved nations. Every culture has been affected since the beginning of time by men and women of faith.

Ephesians 4:4-6 *“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”*

I mention the verses above because Paul gathers a group of ancient Bible characters together in Faith. Besides faith, what did they all have in common? They were one! Through the centuries the Jewish and Christian religion is bonded together by one God. They have one belief and one faith. After the death and resurrection of Jesus, the two religions slowly unraveled. The separation came about by the argument over one Messiah: Jesus. Paul was Jewish. Yet, the message from Paul is I have met the messiah. The one who could redeem us all back to God.

That is why Hebrews 11 is so interesting. Paul is not using the greats of the New Testament. Instead, he is displaying the faith of the ancients. The ones who could see God's promise yet to be fulfilled. These men and women believed “by faith” that God would redeem them. They held dear to the covenants and promises of God. The proof is in the pudding. Their lives displayed their faith. The point is unity of faith. We are one. The messiah “issue” between Jews and Christians is massive. Yet, it is. Jesus is Jewish. In so many ways He is not the founder of a new religion. He is the Jewish messiah.

What Paul is describing in Hebrews is a oneness of thought. These saints had faith that God would provide a messiah. That their line and kingdom would continue. Jesus is not Christianity half as much as the Jewish God. Yet, He is both for all involved. Jesus is the promise

and the hope of the world, not to just one nation. Each person that believes in the God Jehovah has a hope and assurance that He will deliver. We believe!

Isaiah 6:8 *“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” and I said, “Here am I. Send me!”*

What makes the faith of the ancient saints is that they lived in faith. Yet, the promise went unfulfilled in their time. I think Paul is alluding to the fact that they did not care. In a way it was “if not us, then who?” the verse above says it all. The Lord calls and who will answer. Abraham answered in Faith. Rahab did. So did a host of others. To receive a promise? In a way yes, but for the most part it was an honor to be called. An honor to say yes, and so will I! Take this journey with me as we explore the faith of the ancient saints. They paved the path that we stand on today. Now we can all stand together (Jew and Gentile) saying we believe!