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BY FAITH — Hebrews 11:1-22

Warm-Up Question:

If you could ask God one question and get an immediate, clear answer, what would it be?

READ: Hebrews 11:1-22

I. BY FAITH: PLEASING GOD

- Read v. 1-2 & 6 and give a definition of “faith” in your own words.
- Discuss a scenario when a child is faced with something difficult he can’t do on his own. How does it *please* his parents when he trusts them to do it? Why do you think our faith “pleases” God (read v. 6 again)?
- What makes faith/trusting God so hard sometimes? When is it hardest for you?
- Do you ever feel like God isn’t pleased with you because you don’t have enough faith? Do you ever think you have to demonstrate your faith by some form of ongoing obedience to earn God’s pleasure?
- Read Ephesians 2:8-9. If our faith was given to us by grace as a gift, does God’s ultimate pleasure in us depend on the measure of our faith?

II. BY FAITH: OBEYING GOD

- Discuss what “faith” (trusting God) looked like for Noah to build the Ark (v. 7) in light of the definition of faith you gave in the first question.
- Discuss what “faith” looked like for Abraham to leave his country (v. 8). What was his motivation from v. 10?
- What was behind Sarah’s faith to wait on a child from v. 11?

III. BY FAITH: LOOKING BEYOND DEATH

- What was the foundations of Abraham’s faith regarding Isaac in v. 19?
- Discuss how faith is easier when our eyes are directed upward vs. on the things of this earth (from v. 14-16)?
- **Share a situation or area in your life where you don’t see what God is doing or feel like you don’t have control over & you need to trust God with it. What promises/truths from this chapter most motivate you to trust God with that area?**

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For Prayer:

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BY FAITH
Hebrews 11:1-22

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Scriptures Used

Heb. 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. **2** For by it the people of old received their commendation. **3** By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

Heb. 11:4 By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. **5** By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. **6** And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. **7** By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

Heb. 11:8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. **9** By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. **10** For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. **11** By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. **12** Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

Heb. 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. **14** For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. **15** If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. **16** But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

Heb. 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, **18** of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." **19** He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. **20** By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. **21** By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. **22** By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.

Eph. 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, **9** not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

NOTES:

- ▶ Do you ever feel like God isn't pleased with you because you don't have enough faith? Do you ever think you have to demonstrate your faith by some form of ongoing obedience to earn God's pleasure?
- ▶ Read Ephesians 2:8-9. If our faith was given to us by grace as a gift, does God's ultimate pleasure in us depend on the measure of our faith?

— It's easy to measure our "faith" by our obedience, and then think that God's pleasure in us in an ongoing way depends on the amount of faith we demonstrate in some form of obedience or spiritual discipline. It's good to flesh out if/when we feel God's disappointment. What causes that feeling?

—> It's so important to remember the gospel, that even our "faith" was a gift of God's grace to us. Jesus died to give us faith and repentance. God is so pleased in us when we fail but look to the cross of Jesus and his work for us and remember we are forgiven and free. God takes such pleasure when we admit our small faith and ask him to help us trust him in some area where it is hard to trust.