

All-In: Walking in Faith

Hebrews 11:1–3 NLT

Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see. Through their faith, the people in days of old earned a good reputation. By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God's command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen.

For the author of Hebrews, “faith” is not just about how we feel or think about an issue but about how our actions connect to that reality.

Hebrews 11:4–6 NLT

It was by faith that Abel brought a more acceptable offering to God than Cain did. Abel's offering gave evidence that he was a righteous man, and God showed his approval of his gifts. Although Abel is long dead, he still speaks to us by his example of faith.

It was by faith that Enoch was taken up to heaven without dying—“he disappeared, because God took him.” For before he was taken up, he was known as a person who pleased God. And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.

Hebrews 11:7–12 NLT

It was by faith that Noah built a large boat to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about things that had never happened before. By his faith Noah condemned the rest of the world, and he received the righteousness that comes by faith.

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going. And even when he reached the land God promised him, he lived there by faith—for he was like a foreigner, living in tents. And so did Isaac and Jacob, who inherited the same promise. Abraham was confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built by God.

It was by faith that even Sarah was able to have a child, though she was barren and was too old. She believed that God would keep his promise. And so a whole nation came from this one man who was as good as dead—a nation with so many people that, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore, there is no way to count them.

Trinity Value: Faith

Hearing God and doing what He says

Hebrews 11:13–22 NLT

All these people died still believing what God had promised them. They did not receive what was promised, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it. They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth. Obviously, people who say such things are looking forward to a country they can call their own. If they had longed for the country they came from, they could have gone back. But they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

It was by faith that Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice when God was testing him. Abraham, who had received God's promises, was ready to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, even though God had told him, "Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted." Abraham reasoned that if Isaac died, God was able to bring him back to life again. And in a sense, Abraham did receive his son back from the dead.

It was by faith that Isaac promised blessings for the future to his sons, Jacob and Esau.

It was by faith that Jacob, when he was old and dying, blessed each of Joseph's sons and bowed in worship as he leaned on his staff.

It was by faith that Joseph, when he was about to die, said confidently that the people of Israel would leave Egypt. He even commanded them to take his bones with them when they left.

A key to walking in faith: Get a vision from God for what "could be" and begin walking into that reality.

Hebrews 11:32–39 NLT

How much more do I need to say? It would take too long to recount the stories of the faith of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and all the prophets. By faith these people overthrew kingdoms, ruled with justice, and received what God had promised them. They shut the mouths of lions, quenched the flames of fire, and escaped death by the edge of the sword. Their weakness was turned to strength. They

became strong in battle and put whole armies to flight. Women received their loved ones back again from death.

But others were tortured, refusing to turn from God in order to be set free. They placed their hope in a better life after the resurrection. Some were jeered at, and their backs were cut open with whips. Others were chained in prisons. Some died by stoning, some were sawed in half, and others were killed with the sword. Some went about wearing skins of sheep and goats, destitute and oppressed and mistreated. They were too good for this world, wandering over deserts and mountains, hiding in caves and holes in the ground. All these people earned a good reputation because of their faith, yet none of them received all that God had promised.

6 Keys to Walking in Faith

1. Hear God's promise and treat it as reality.

Exodus 33:7 NLT

It was Moses' practice to take the Tent of Meeting and set it up some distance from the camp. Everyone who wanted to make a request of the Lord would go to the Tent of Meeting outside the camp.

2. Practice obedience before understanding.

3. Let faith shape your choices, not just your beliefs.

4. Keep your eyes fixed on the eternal perspective.

5. Choose to trust God, especially when the outcome is uncertain.

6. Stay in the company of faith.

Small Group Guide: Walking in Faith

Opening Question

When has God asked you to take a step without giving you the full picture first? What made it hard, and what happened when you did it (or didn't)?

Faith Is Not a Feeling

Faith is not a feeling or a mood that arrives when circumstances feel comfortable enough. It is a present claim on what God has promised, like a title deed, not a wish. Read Hebrews 11:1. The Greek word behind “reality” in that verse— *hupostasis* — was a legal term for a document establishing ownership of a future possession. This is the foundation: faith begins where God speaks, and it holds what He has said as more real than what we can currently see.

But faith was never designed to be purely intellectual. It shows up in action or it doesn't show up at all. Every example Hebrews holds up in the Hall of Faith is a person who did something — Noah built, Abraham went, Sarah believed for a body that had already given up. None of them waited for complete information. Each of them had one next step and took it. At Trinity, faith is defined simply as hearing God and doing what He says. The challenge is that God rarely gives every step at once, and waiting for steps two, three, and four before taking step one is not wisdom, but it is avoidance dressed up as discernment.

This is by design. God is not withholding the full picture out of carelessness. He is looking for people who will trust Him with it — who will get a vision for what could be and begin walking into it before it arrives. The men and women of Hebrews 11 carried visions bigger than their own lifetimes. Jacob blessed grandchildren he would never see grow up. Joseph gave instructions about bones that wouldn't move for generations. Faith at its fullest is always multi-generational: it believes for more than the current moment.

And it trusts God regardless of the outcome. Hebrews 11 ends with a passage that is easy to rush past: some saw extraordinary victories, others were imprisoned, tortured, and never saw the promise fulfilled. Both groups earned the same reputation — people of faith. The outcome did not define their faithfulness, their willingness to keep trusting God when the outcome was uncertain did. That is the model Scripture offers: not faith that produces the result we want, but faith that chooses God even when it doesn't.

For Discussion

1. Trinity's faith value is defined as “hearing God and doing what He says.” How do you personally distinguish between hearing God and hearing your own desires or fears? What practices help you tell the difference?

2. Every person in the Hall of Faith acted before they had the full picture. Is there a step God has been asking you to take that you have been waiting to understand more fully before you move? What would it take to take just step one?
3. Some people in Hebrews 11 saw miraculous victories, while others suffered severely and died without seeing the promise. How does that sit with you? How does it shape the way you think about trusting God in a season where the outcome is uncertain?
4. Key four says to get a vision from God for what “could be” and begin walking into it — and the notes press this toward the multi-generational: what do you believe for your children, your family, your community? Is there a vision you are carrying that is bigger than what you can accomplish in your own lifetime?
5. Key six says faith is contagious and that it is strengthened by being in the company of faithful people. Who in your life is currently pointing you toward Jesus? Is there someone you are doing that for?

Closing Prayer

Father, You are the God who speaks and then asks us to move before we can see where we are going. Forgive us for the times we have called our hesitation wisdom, and our waiting faithfulness, when really we were just afraid. Thank You for the men and women who showed us what it looks like to take the next step with nothing guaranteed but Your word. Jesus, You are the author and finisher of our faith. You ran the same race, and You are the reason we can run at all. Holy Spirit, show each of us the next obedient step. Give us the courage to take it without requiring the full picture first. And surround us with people who will keep pointing us to You when our own faith grows thin. In Jesus' name, Amen.