

## The Power of Faith

### Hebrews 11

The key to living a life of faith is the Word of God. It is not some mystical formula or some emotional experience that people have by listening to some song or some speaker; it is simply the Word of God. The Psalms were written from real life experiences, but in each case, the Word of God is connected to that real life experience.

Psalms stand as a doorkeeper to the entire Psalter; yet, no one knows who penned the Psalm – the author is anonymous. But what profound wisdom there is in this Psalm as we enter the portal of life's experiences: "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night" (vv. 1-2). Now note in verse 3 the first five words: "And he shall be like ...."

It is impossible to live by faith apart from knowing and reading God's Word. We call those in Hebrews 11 the heroes of faith, and in each case of those heroes you will find a connection with the Word of God. In fact, faith is described as the "... substance [assurance or reality] of things hoped for, the evidence [proof] of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). One writer put it like this: "Faith gives reality and proof of things unseen, treating them as if they were already objects of sight."

Another writer well said, "Walking by faith means living life in light of eternal consequences. To walk by faith is to fear God more than man; to obey the Bible even when it conflicts with man's commands; to choose righteousness over sin, no matter what the cost; to trust God in every circumstance; and to believe God rewards those who seek Him, regardless of who says otherwise (Hebrews 11:6)." Therefore, rather than loving the things of this world (I John 2:15-16), Christians should spend their lives glorifying God in everything they do (I Corinthians 10:31). It requires faith to live this way because we cannot see, we cannot hear, nor can we touch anything spiritual.

When we base our lives on the truth of God's Word, rather than on the popular philosophy of our day, we are going against our natural inclinations. Our natural instincts may be to hoard money, but walking by faith says we should "give to those in need" (Luke 11:41; Ephesians 4:28). Society may say that sexual immorality is acceptable, but those who walk by faith base their standards on the unchangeable

nature of God's Word, which says any sex outside of marriage is sin (I Corinthians 6:18; Ephesians 5:3; Galatians 5:19).

To walk by faith requires that we tune our hearts to the voice of the Holy Spirit and the truth of His Word. We choose to live according to what God reveals to us, rather than trust our own understanding (Proverbs 3:5–6).

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