

“When for Deeper Faith I Seek”

Hebrews 11:1-6

Heb. 11:1-6

- “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. 3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. 4 By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks. 5 By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, and was not found, because God had taken him; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. 6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

“When for Deeper Faith I Seek”

- “Faith is not the power of positive thinking; it is believing in God and trusting that His will is always best even when you cannot understand why.” (S. Howerton)
- “Faith means being sure of what we hope for now. It means knowing something is real, this moment, all around you, even when you don't see it.” (J. E. Tada)
- “Faith sees the invisible, believes the implausible, and accepts the incredible. Then, faith does without the indispensable, bears with the intolerable, and does the impossible.”

“When for Deeper Faith I Seek”

- Faith is precious, especially when we share it in fellowship
 - 2Peter 1:1 - “Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ”
 - Rom. 1:11-12 - “For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established-- 12 that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.”
 - Faith is spoken of more than 300 times in the New Testament.

Faith Is Central

- To pleasing God
 - Heb. 11:6 - “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him”
- To living
 - Hab. 2:4 - “Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith.”
 - Heb. 10:38-39 - “Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him. 39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.”

Faith Is Central

- To walking in the Way
 - 2Cor. 5:7 - “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”
- To prayer
 - James 1:5-6 - “But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord”

Faith Is Central

- To forgiveness
 - Luke 17:3-6 - “Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. 4 And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, I repent, you shall forgive him. 5 And the apostles said to the Lord, Increase our faith. 6 So the Lord said, If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea, and it would obey you.”
- To hope
 - Heb. 11:1 - “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

Faith Is Changeable

- Weak
 - Rom. 4:19 - “And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb”
- Little - Matt. 6:30, 8:26, 14:31
- It is possible to have weak, little faith and still be saved

Faith Is Changeable

- Strong
 - Rom. 4:20 - “He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God”
- Great
 - Matt. 8:10 - “When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!”
- It is possible to have strong, great faith and still be lost

What Can Happen To Faith Over Time?

- It can fail
 - Luke 22:32 - “But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren”
- It can be denied
 - 1Tim. 5:8 - “But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”
- It can be abandoned
 - 1Tim. 4:1 - “Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons”

What Can Happen To Faith Over Time?

- It can crash
 - 1Tim. 1:19 - “Having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck”
- It can stray
 - 1Tim. 6:10, 20-21 - “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness... 20 ...avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge-- 21 by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith”
- It can be overthrown
 - 2Tim. 2:18 - “Who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.”

What Can Happen To Faith Over Time?

- It can be cast off
 - 1Tim. 5:11-12 - “But refuse the younger widows; for when they have begun to grow wanton against Christ, they desire to marry, 12 having condemnation because they have cast off their first faith.”
- It can become unbelief
 - Heb. 3:12 - “Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God”

What Else Can Happen?

- It can grow
 - 1Thes. 1:3 - “Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father”
- It can increase
 - Luke 17:5 - “And the apostles said to the Lord, Increase our faith.”
- It can grow strong
 - 2Thes. 1:3 - “We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly”

Faith Needs Constant Care

- If it is taken for granted, it will leave without our noticing its departure
- If we ignore the warnings about losing it, we ensure that it will go away
- If we assume it will stay same, we will be oblivious to its change

How To Care For Your Faith

- Edify it
 - Col. 1:9-11 - “For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy”
- Enhance it
 - 2Peter 1:5 - “But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith...”

How To Care For Your Faith

- Exercise it
 - Luke 17:5-6 - “And the apostles said to the Lord, Increase our faith. 6 So the Lord said, If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea, and it would obey you.”
- Examine it
 - 2Cor. 13:5 - “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves...”

Examine Your Faith

- Do you believe what you have always believed?
- Do you feel that your faith is stronger now?
- Do you tolerate things more than in the past?
- Are you as troubled by sin as you used to be?
- Do you enjoy Bible study more or less?
- Are some works harder or easier now?
- Have your tastes and interests changed?

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- Mark 9:23-24 - “Jesus said to him, ‘If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.’ 24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, ‘Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!’”