

LIVING BY FAITH IN CHRIST

Lesson Aim: Teach the students to obey Christ by faith, even when it seems irrational or impossible.

FAITH OF BELIEVERS EXAMINED – 11:1-3, 39-40

It is the believer's assurance of future blessings – 11:1. Some examples of blessings are given below:
His resurrection at the Rapture; his rule with Christ on earth; his glory with Christ in the New Jerusalem

It is the believer's proof of present blessings not seen – 11:1. Examples of blessings are given below:
His sins forgiven; his righteousness in Christ; his access to God thru Christ; his power in prayer

It is the elders' approval by God for works well done – 11:2
God was pleased with those persons who believed His revelation and acted on it.

It is the believer's grasp of origins – 11:3
Faith believes God created the ages and all things in heaven and earth by His word out of nothing.

It is holding on to the promise that God has revealed to us – 11:39-40
God has progressively revealed His promise to believers in each new dispensation so that its full revelation is not complete until the end. In that way former believers could not be made perfect without us.

FAITH OF BELIEVERS EXHIBITED – 11:4-38

Abel – 11:4
He believed God's revealed plan [cf Gen 3:21], so he offered a sacrifice superior to that of Cain.

Enoch – 11:5-6
He believed God is and would keep His promises, so God took him to Heaven without dying.

Noah – 11:7
He believed God's warning, built an ark, saved his family and received the righteousness of God.

Abraham – 11:8-19
He believed God's promise to give him a land, not knowing where it was, but he went where God led him.
By faith he lived as a stranger in the land that God's promised him, though he never inherited any of it.
He believed God's promise to give him a city of which He was the architect and builder. He and his family never saw the city, so they could have returned to their former city, but they desired a better city that God had promised them. So God was not ashamed to be called their God [11:10,16; 12:22; 13:14].

Sarah, his wife, believed God's promise to give her a son by Abraham when she was 90 years old. Thru Isaac a large family was given to her and Abraham like the stars of the sky and the sand of the seashore.

He offered up Isaac in obedience to God's command, believing He would resurrect Isaac, if necessary, to keep His promise to make of Isaac a great nation.

Isaac – 11:20
He believed God's promises and blessed his two sons regarding things to come.

Jacob – 11:21
He believed God's promises and brought Joseph's two sons into the blessings of his sons.

Joseph – 11:22
He believed God would restore Israel to live in Canaan, so he asked to have his bones buried there.

Moses – 11:23-29
By faith his parents saw he was special, so they hid him and were not afraid of the king's command.
By faith he refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing to suffer with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. He esteemed the reproach of Christ to be greater riches than the treasures of Egypt because he believed God's reward was greater.

By faith he left Egypt and did not fear the wrath of Egypt's king, as though he saw God, who is invisible.

By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood around the door, because he believed God's warning about the death angel killing the first born where the blood was not sprinkled around the door.

By faith in God's command he led the people through the Red Sea on dry land and closed the sea on the Egyptians that pursued after them, so they were drowned in the sea.

Joshua – 11:30

By faith in God's plan they marched around Jericho seven days and its walls fell down for an easy victory.

Rahab – 11: 31

By faith she received Israel's spies and was spared when Jericho was destroyed.

Many others – 11:32-39

By faith many Old Testament believers experienced God's mighty power in their lives. Some were spared death, but others were tortured to death. Some were honored, but most were despised. But all had faith in God and received a good report.