

CHOOSING FAITH

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. ² This is what the ancients were commended for. ³ By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. ⁴ By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead. ⁵ By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death: "He could not be found, because God had taken him away." For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. ⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Hebrews 11:1-6 (NIV)

❖ Understanding Faith:

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)

1. Faith is not WISHFUL THINKING.
2. Faith is not an EMPTY HOPE.
3. Faith is a CONFIDENT ASSURANCE based on a FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH.

❖ Hindrances to Our Faith:

1. Hindrance is DOUBT.

Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

Matthew 14:31 (NIV)

2. Hindrance is UNBELIEF.

"The demon often throws him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us." ²³ "If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes." ²⁴ Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

Mark 9:22-24 (NIV)

3. Hindrance is FEAR.

He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

Matthew 8:26 (NIV)

❖ Choosing F.A.I.T.H.

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)

F.A.I.T.H.

- F. – FIRST

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all you need will be given to you as well.”

Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

- A. – ALL

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.

Romans 12:1 (NIV)

- I. – I

“He must increase, but I must decrease.”

John 3:30 (NASB)

- T. – TRUST

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. ⁶Seek his will in all you do, and he will direct your paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

- H. – HIM

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:9-11 (NIV)