

THE FUNCTION OF FAITH IN THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD (1)
THE ACTION OF FAITH
Hebrews 11:1-12

- I. Faith Is Acting in the Reality of Divine Revelation (11:1-12)
 - A. Faith is Trusting in God and His Revelation (11:1-2)
 - 1. Faith Is Trusting in Divine Promises (11:1a)
 - 2. Faith Is Believing in Biblical Metaphysics (11:1b)
 - 3. Faith Is Relying on the Faithfulness of God (11:2)
 - B. Faith Enables Trusting in the Truthfulness of God's Revelation and the Faithfulness of God throughout History (11:3-12)
 - 1. Faith Enables Accepting the Biblical Account of Creation (11:3)
 - a. The World Is Made by the Word of God
 - b. The Visible Was Made from the Invisible
 - 2. Faith Enabled Abel to Trust in God's Rule of Redemption (11:4)
 - a. Abel Gave the Right Offering by Faith in God
 - b. Abel Was Declared Righteous through Faith by God
 - c. Abel Continued Witnessing by the Faithfulness of God
 - 3. Faith Enabled Enoch to Trust in God's Design of Fellowship (11:5-6)
 - a. Enoch Was the First Person Raptured Bypassing Death
 - b. Enoch Apparently Pleased God in Fellowship with Him
 - c. Faith Is the Minimum Requirement in Pleasing God
 - i. Faith Includes Believing in God's Existence
 - ii. Faith Includes Seeking God and His Pleasure
 - 4. Faith Enabled Noah to Trust in God's Sentence of Judgment (11:7)
 - a. Noah's Fear of God Saved Him and His Family
 - b. Noah's Faith Condemned His Generation of Unfaithfulness
 - c. Noah Was Imparted with Righteous by His Faith
 - 5. Faith Enabled Abraham and Sarah to Trust in God's Plan of Salvation (11:8-12)
 - a. Abraham Obeyed with Sufficient but Not Full Knowledge
 - b. Abraham Obeyed with the Hope in the City of God
 - c. Sarah Was Blessed by Trusting in God's Promise
 - d. Abraham and Sarah Were Blessed Just as God Promised
- II. Faith Is Acting in Spite of the Lack of Immediate Positive Reactions (11:13-22)
- III. Faith Is Choosing to Please God More than Man despite Apparent Immediate Bad Consequences (11:23-31)
- IV. Faith Is Keeping Faithful to Covenantal Commitments despite Negative Reactions (11:32-40)

Central Ideas

Faith is trusting in the divine revelation, and acting in its reality. Faith is as good as its object gets. True faith generates Hope and Love. The highest object of faith is pleasing God by obedience. Faith demands action, despite the negative reactions or the lack of immediate positive reactions. God's truthfulness and faithfulness is evidently shown in his interactions with his people throughout history.

Study Questions
(Hebrews 11:1-12)

1. Is Hebrews 11:1 a definition of faith? If not, what is it?
2. What is the interplay between faith, hope and love?
3. What is the context and purpose of this chapter-long exposition of faith?
4. Is this chapter more about the faithfulness of the ancient heroes or that of God?
5. Is this chapter chronological by the people or the acts of God? What does Heb 11:3 play in your conclusion?
6. Why was Abel's offering right and Cain's wrong? Give options and your opinion.
7. Why could Abel still witness while dead? (Due to his faith or God's faithfulness?)
8. Why did Enoch walk with God? Does death belong to those in good fellowship with God?
9. What does pleasing God mean to believers? What does that take?
10. Why did Noah fear God? Does faith has anything to do with it?
11. Is there a pattern on how these ancient heroes get their righteousness? By what?
12. Does obedience demand full knowledge of God and his plan?
13. What was Abraham's hope? What are the City of God and the City of Man? Is that hope the result of Abraham's faith or the cause of it?
14. Did Sarah show her faith or/and lack of it? Explain by text. What did God see?

The Interplay between Faith, Hope and Love

God



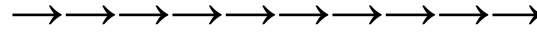
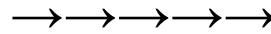
Revelation = Metaphysics
Reality beyond experience

Things invisible now

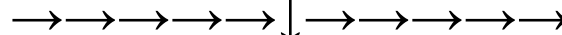
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Promise → →

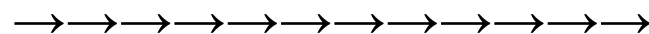
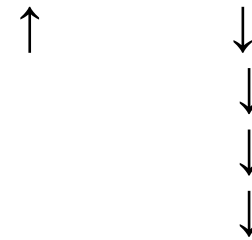
Things unrealized yet



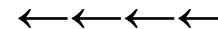
Faith = Trusting in the character of God and the truthfulness of his revelation



Hope = Trusting in the future realization of God's promises



Acting in the reality of God and his revelation



Love = Being faithful, truthful, good and real, as God is

The Problem of the Septuagint

Masoretic Text (MT)		Septuagint (LXX)	
Hebrew		Greek	
<p>Ps 40:6-8</p> <p>Sacrifices and offerings You do not desire; <u>My ears You have opened.</u> Burnt offerings and sin offerings You did not require. Then I said, “Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book it is written of me. I desire to do your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart.”</p>	Believer	<p>Heb 10:5b-7</p> <p>Sacrifices and offerings You do not desire, <u>But a body You have prepared for Me.</u> In burnt Offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure, Then I said “Behold, I have come – In the volume of the book it is written of Me – To so Your will, O God.”</p>	Messiah
<p>Hab 2:3-4</p> <p>For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; <u>Because it will surely come,</u> <u>It will not tarry.</u> <u>Behold the proud, his soul is not upright in him;</u> But the just shall live by his faith.</p>	Believer	<p>Hab 2:3-4</p> <p>Because the vision is yet for an appointed time, And it will appear at length and not in vain: If he is late, wait for him; <u>Because he will surely come, he will not delay.</u> <u>If he draws back, my soul has no pleasure in him,</u> But my righteous one will live by faith.</p>	Messiah
		<p>Heb 10:37-38</p> <p>For yet a little while, <u>And He who is coming will come and will not tarry.</u> Now the just shall live by faith; <u>But if anyone draws back,</u> <u>My soul has no pleasure in him.</u></p>	Messiah & Believer