

It's about...Faith Not Feelings

Wylie United Methodist Church
Pastor Jeff Hatcher – November 6, 2011

Heb 11:1-13 (God's Hall of Fame of Faith)

¹ 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. ⁷ By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. ⁸ By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. ⁹ By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ By faith Abraham, even though he was past age — and Sarah herself was barren — was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise. ¹² And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore. ¹³ All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance.

Faith in the Bible:

- We are justified and made righteous by grace through faith (Romans)
- Without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews)
- Nothing is impossible to those with faith (Matthew)

1. FAITHS SOURCE IS LOVE AND TRUST, NOT FEELINGS.

Faith:

Faith is trust, hope and belief in the goodness, trustworthiness or reliability of a person, concept or entity.

Feelings:

In psychology, the word is usually reserved for the conscious, subjective experience of emotion.

My definition: Faith is when LOVE and TRUST come together and influence our behavior.

2. FAITH INVOLVES RISK (IT'S NOT A SURE THING).

3. FAITH INVOLVES ACTION.

Faith is not something you "feel", it's something you decide. Something you do.

Do you think Abraham ever questioned God?

Usually, what God asked of him didn't make much sense. But he listened and responded in faith and obedience.

4. FAITH GIVES GOD A CHANCE TO SHOW HIS STUFF.

Faith pleases God. Lack of Faith Doesn't.

One of the greatest feelings in the world is when you trust God and He comes through!

Heb 11:13

[Abraham was] still living by faith when [he] died. [He] did not receive the things promised; [he] only saw them and welcomed them from a distance.