

The Faith of Abraham

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Faith

Hebrews 11:1-3

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

Faith vs Sight

*“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,
the conviction of things not seen.”*

- *“... for we walk by faith, not by sight.”*
2 Corinthians 5:7
- When our faith becomes sight, faith and hope will no longer exist. Romans 8:14
- 1 Corinthians 13 : *Faith, Hope, Love* : only one of these is eternal.

Commendation of the Saints

“For by it the people of old received their commendation.”

Abel	Jacob
Enoch	Joseph
Noah	Moses
Abraham	Joshua and the people
Sarah	Rehab the Prostitute
Isaac	Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel,

Requirements for Drawing Near to God.

Hebrews 11:6

*And **without faith it is impossible to please him**, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.*

1. Must believe that God exists.

- *“The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’”* Psalm 14:1; 53:1
- Why is this a struggle for us?

2. Must believe that God gives rewards.

- Jesus frequently spoke of rewards: Matt 6:6,17-18; 10:41,41; 19:21,29; 25:33; Luke 6:22-23, 35, 38; Luke 14:12-14;
- Things that are seen are transient — the permanent unseen is the great reward. 2 Corinthians 4:17-18

The Faith of Abraham

Hebrews 11:8,9

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

- *“In hope he believed against hope...”* Romans 4:18
- God must have shown Himself to be faithful and capable of performing what He has promised. *“...fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.”* Romans 4:12
- Even though Abraham’s faith was not sight, it was not blind trust.
- Abraham staked everything on God’s call.

Focus on Heavenly City

Hebrews 11:10-16

For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. (v 10)

But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city. (v 16)

Jesus is preparing for us a mansion (John 14:2).
Of course, without Jesus, a mansion would be lifeless and hallow.

Promises not fulfilled here...

These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

Hebrews 11:13

And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

Hebrews 11:39,40

Reclining at the Table with Abraham

The Roman Centurion in Matthew 8:5-13

- Centurion : Caption of 100. A Roman soldier was promoted by the general for their skill and courage in battle.
- In Luke 7:1-10 the Centurion was not actually present — He understood how Christ could command the supernatural as he commanded those in his charge.
- Jesus marvels at his great faith.

...many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven

Why believe?

- I have no “proof” (scientific or otherwise).
- I have never heard God audibly or seen Him physically.
- I have never witnessed a miracle like those I have read in the Bible.
- I did not see Jesus heal anyone or witness His crucifixion.
- Unlike Thomas, I did not get to put my hands in Jesus’ wound on His side (John 29:29).

Cosmological Argument

Psalm 19:1

By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

Hebrews 11:1-3

- A first cause: *“nothing comes from nothing.”*
- The evidence is overwhelming that the universe had a beginning. What/Who caused it?
- The unlikeliness of my existence and the ability to ponder my own existence.

Why Jesus?

The Cross!

- At the Cross Jesus defined and exemplified **love** par excellence.
- At the Cross Jesus does not avoid **suffering** but faces it head on.
- At the Cross both **Justice and Mercy** meet.
- Jesus presents us true **righteousness** that transcends all other attempts.
- Jesus likes to hang out with with tax collectors, prostitutes, and sinners like me.