

HEBREWS 7

- Hebrews Chapter 11 is an important chapter about faith.
- Before we study the Bible verses, we should learn about faith.
- What is faith?
- Faith is belief.
- All people have beliefs.
- Some people believe that which is true.
- Some people believe that which is not true.
- What is important to know about belief?
- It is the object of belief which is most important.
- It is what you believe which is most important.
- You can have a strong belief, but if your belief is based on that which is not true, your life is based on a lie.
- If you believe that which is true, then your life will be based on truth.
- This is why we must first understand what is true before we can have a proper belief.
- Many people believe in “God,” but it is not the one, true God.

- Many people believe in “God,” but it is not the God of the Bible.
- Many people believe in “God,” but it is a god of their own making.
- What are two important questions when talking to others about faith?
- Is it true what you believe?
- How do you know that it is true?
- Some people believe because a religious leader or father or mother or friend told them.
- Even if a religious leader or father or mother or friend tells you something, this does not mean that it is true.
- This is because all people have lied.
- We must first learn what God says, for God cannot lie.
- Only God is only truth (John 14:6).
- We must believe in God as God says and not as what people say.
- Here are some examples:
- Some people say that God only lives in heaven far away from people, but is that what God says?

-No.

-God says in the Bible that He is everywhere (Je 23:23-24).

-Some people say that God does not care about sin, but is that what God says?

-No.

-God says in the Bible that sin must be punished with death (Romans 6:23).

-Some people say that God must not love us because He allows people to go to hell, but is that what God says?

-No.

-God says in the Bible that He wants all people to be saved from sin (1 Ti 2:4 & 2 Pe 3:9).

-We must believe in God as God says, and not as what people say.

-This is why we read and study God's Word to know what God says, and not what people say.

-Faith can be belief in that which we see.

-When we sit down in a chair, we believe that the chair will hold us.

-When we drive a car, we believe that the car will go to where we are steering it.

-When we sleep at night, we believe that the sun will come up in the morning.

-This faith is easier because we can see it.

-Faith can also be belief in that which we do not see.

-This faith is not as easy because we cannot see it.

-This is faith in God.

-There are many religions in the world which believe in God.

-The problem is that all of these religions except for one believe in a god of their own making.

-All of these other religions believe in a god which they alone have decided to be their god.

-This was also the problem with Israel.

-Even though God gave them laws to show His holiness and to teach them that no one can come to God by what they do, Israel made their own god.

-True faith is this:

- 1) Believing in God as God Himself has written in the Bible.
- 2) Allowing God to be completely God in our lives.

-In short, true faith is believing in the one true God, and living for Him.

-This is the faith that Hebrews 11 talks about:

Let's read Hebrews 11:1-2

1-Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

2-This is what the ancients were commended for.

-What does Hebrews 11:1 tell us what faith is?

-Faith is being sure of what we do not see.

-Although we do not see God, we are sure that He exists.

-Belief is knowing that God is with us even though we do not see Him.

-In short, faith is to believe in God, and to live for Him.

Let's read Hebrews 11:3

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.

-Although there was no one at the beginning except for God, we believe that God created the universe.

-This is because the Word of God tells us so.

-Belief is knowing that the Word of God is God, that God is His Word, and that they are the same.

-In short, faith is to believe in God, and to live for Him.

Let's read Hebrews 11:4

4-By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead.

-Why was Abel's offering better than Cain's?

-Because Abel brought the offering that God must have required.

-The Bible teaches us that Abel obeyed God while Cain did not obey God.

-Does obedience go together with faith?

-Yes. They are twin brothers.

-If you believe, then you will obey.

-If you do not believe, then you will not obey.

-Because Abel believed in God, He obeyed and brought the offering that God required.

-Because Cain did not believe in God, he did not obey and did not bring the offering God required.

-Belief is doing what God wants and not what we want.

-In short, faith is to believe in God, and to live for Him.

Let's read Hebrews 11:5

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.

-Enoch did not die because God took him straight to heaven.

-This was because Enoch had a strong belief in God.

-Belief is having a strong faith in God which pleases our God.

-In short, faith is to believe in God, and to live for Him.

Let's read Hebrews 11:6

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.

-How do we please God?

-By believing in Him.

-If we believe in God, God increases our faith or belief.

-For those who do not believe in God, they remain in disbelief unless they ask God to help them to believe.

-Belief is knowing that God exists, and that God will bless us for believing in Him.

-In short, faith is to believe in God, and to live for Him.

Let's read Hebrews 11:7

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 is in keeping with faith.

-God spoke to Noah and he obeyed.

-Even though there had never been rain on the earth, Noah believed in God, and therefore, built the ark.

-Even though Noah had no machines and it took over one hundred years to build the ark, Noah obeyed God.

-Is our faith in ourselves our righteousness?

-No.

-It is our faith in God that is our righteousness.

-Belief is doing that which God asks you to do even though the world might laugh at you and reject you.

-In short, faith is to believe in God, and to live for Him.

Let's read Hebrews 11:8-12

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-And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she 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.

-God told Abraham to leave Ur, and Abraham obeyed, even though he did not know where he was going to.

-Abraham understood that he was a stranger on earth, and looked forward to a life with God where he would not be a stranger.

-Belief is obeying God even though you do not know to where God is leading you.

-In short, faith is to believe in God, and to live for Him.

Let's read Hebrews 11:13-16

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, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth.

14-People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own.

15-If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return.

16-Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

-As Christians, we believe in Christ alone to save us.

-As Christians, we also believe that our true home in eternity is in heaven with God.

-Belief is knowing that life on earth is only for a short time, and that our eternal home in heaven with God waits for us.

-In short, faith is to believe in God, and to live for Him.

Let's read Hebrews 11:17-19

17-By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son,

18-Even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned."

19-Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.

-When God told Abraham to sacrifice his only son, Abraham obeyed.

-Why did Abraham obey?

-Because Abraham believed God.

-Belief is when Abraham was willing to give back to God that which God had given to him.

-Belief is when Abraham believed that if he sacrificed his son, God would raise his son from the dead.

-In Genesis 15:6, we read that Abraham believed God,

and therefore, God gifted Abraham with righteousness.

-Abraham, like all people, was not righteous in himself.

-Because of Abraham's belief, however, God gifted Abraham with God's righteousness.

-Belief is living in God's righteousness, and not in our own lack of righteousness.

-In short, faith is to believe in God, and to live for Him.

Let's read Hebrews 11:20-22

20-By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future.

21-By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph's sons, and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff.

22-By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions concerning the burial of his bones.

-Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph all believed in the promises of God.

-Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph all believed that God would fulfill His promise to give Israel the land of Canaan even though they lived in Egypt.

-Belief is knowing that all that God has said is true, and that He will fulfill all of His promises one day.

-In short, faith is to believe in God, and to live for Him.

Let's read Hebrews 11:23

23-By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

-Moses' parents believed in God, and refused to obey Pharaoh, but rather, hid their child.

-Belief is not being afraid to disobey an order from someone in power when you know that it is wrong.

-In short, faith is to believe in God, and to live for Him.

Let's read Hebrews 11:24-28

24-By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.

25-He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.

26-He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

27-By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.

28-By faith he kept the Passover and the application of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.

-Even though Moses was brought up by the daughter of king Pharaoh in the palace, Moses chose to leave the riches of the kingdom.

-Belief is choosing the riches of God instead of the riches of this world.

-In short, faith is to believe in God, and to live for Him.

Let's read Hebrews 11:29-31

29-By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.

30-By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days.

31-By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.

-Israel walked through the Red Sea on dry ground even though the walls of the sea were on both sides.

-Israel marched around Jericho for seven days, not knowing that God would tear down the walls by Himself.

-Although Rahab was a prostitute, she believed that God would save her, and God did save her and her family.

-Belief is knowing that God can save us even though there are big problems in our lives.

-In short, faith is to believe in God, and to live for Him.

Let's read Hebrews 11:32-38

32-And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets,

33-who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions,

34-quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies.

35-Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection.

36-Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment.

37-They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—

38-The world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

-Why is the world not worthy of the believers mentioned in Hebrews 11:32-38?

-Because their faith in God was better than anything that the world could offer.

-In short, faith is to believe in God, and to live for Him.

Let's read Hebrews 11:39-40

39-These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised,

40-Since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

-The “something better” is Christ's death on the cross which makes perfect all believers in our Savior, the Lord Jesus.

-In short, faith is to believe in God, and to live for Him.