
“THE TESTING OF YOUR FAITH”

HEBREWS 10:38 – 11:3

SERIES: “REAL FAITH IN AN UNREAL WORLD”

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Introduction

We are living in a seemingly ‘unreal’ world. In many respects our faith is being sorely tested.

CONTEXT: Hebrews 10 – “The Call to Persevere” (NIV)

The letter to the Hebrews was written to Christians who were facing severe trials, some of whom were even tempted to give up their faith.

Scattered through the letter are warnings that focus on our relationship to the Word of God. You can:

- DRIFT from the Word (2:1-4)
- DOUBT God’s Word (3:7-14)
- Be DULL toward the Word (5:11-14)
- DESPISE the Word (10:26-39) .
- DEFY the Word of God (12:14-18)

This is the BITTER way; but there is a BETTER WAY of faith!

Hebrews 10:38 – 11:3

THREE IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES

1. The Lord recognizes your faith will be tested

An assumption: your faith WILL be tested.

v38-39

James 1:2 “...WHEN you face trials ...”

2. The Lord reinforces your faith

The Lord is LOOKING for faith ... he expects and enables faith.

“Lord I do believe, help me in my unbelief” -- Mark 9:24

“For without faith it is impossible to please God” -- Hebrews 11:6
We are invited to place our faith in the Lord.

Hebrews 10:38 quotes Habakkuk 2:24

“But my righteous one will live by faith”

Habakkuk’s lesson during dark days of despair: Habakkuk 3:17-18

Andrew Murray and the SA mission

3. The Lord rewards faith

“For 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

“For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those hearts who are fully committed to Him.”
-- 2 Chronicles 16:9

God rewards faith NOW and into eternity:

“God always rewards faith, if not immediately, at least ultimately”

“Moses chose the imperishable, saw the invisible, and did the impossible.”
-- Vance Havner

HEROES of the FAITH:

- Faith worships - Abel (v4)
- Faith walks - Enoch (v5,6)
- Faith works - Noah (v7)
- Faith waits – Abraham, Isaac & Jacob V8-21
- Faith wars – Moses v22-29
- Faith wins - Joshua - v30
- Faith -witnesses - Rahab v31
- Faith that withstands – v32-40 Gallery of men & woman stood firm against all odds

FAITH DEFINED:

“True faith is confident obedience to God’s Word in spite of the circumstances and consequences”
-- Warren Wiersbe

1. Faith’s confidence

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for” – Hebrews 11:1

NIV: *“being sure”*

Faith is to the Christian what a foundation is to a house.

What are the things hoped for?

- Christ’s return – Titus 2:13
- Our resurrection – 1 Peter 1:3
- Our glorification – 1 John 3:2,3
- Our reign with Christ – 2 Timothy 2:12; Revelation 22:5

2. Faith’s conviction

“the evidence of things not seen” evidence = inner conviction

Faith makes certain what we cannot see – Moses, Joshua, etc

George Mueller’s conviction – Psalm 81:10

3. Faith’s commendation

“For by it the ancients obtained a good testimony” = witness

MOSES heard from God; saw what others didn’t see; and did what others couldn’t do. Hebrews 11:25-27

APPLICATION: FOUR DANGERS WE NEED TO AVOID

1. The Academic Danger:

Personal theories instead of Biblical convictions

The starting point: the Word of God

2. The Doctrinal Danger:

Focusing on the temporal instead of the eternal

Focus on eternity!

Abraham – v16

Moses – v25-27

Apostle Paul – 2 Corinthians 7-8, 16-18

3. The Pragmatic Danger:

Pragmatic solutions instead of Christ-centered actions

Not: “If it works it must be right”

Abraham’s pragmatic move lead to heartache

4. The Emotional Danger:

Temperamental feelings instead of Biblical certainties

God is working in amazing ways!