

Read Hebrews 11

What – This chapter is sometimes called the “hall of faith”, a play on our modern “halls of fame”. God here used a long list of great bible characters to show what our faith should be like. All those listed showed their faith by their actions and followed God despite struggles and heartache.

Why – God not only illustrated in these verses what faith is, giving us a great object lesson to describe our faith, but He reminded us of things about our faith that we often forget. He reminded us that the actions we take by faith last long after we are gone (Vs 4). He reminded us that faith allows us to see things only God normally sees (Vs 5-6). He reminded us that the world might not share our faith, but we must follow Him anyway (Vs 7-12). He reminded us that the ultimate goal of faith is to keep our eyes fixed on heaven, something we can not see but certainly can be sure of (Vs 13-19). He reminded us that our faith secures our future (Vs 20-22). God, through Moses, reminded us that faith allows God room to work in our lives (Vs 23-28). He protects us even when we see it as a risk, all through our faith (Vs 29-31). Faith is what glues us to God and holds us together even when we do not see the plan and outcome that God has in store (Vs 32-40). Faith is the only way we can live a life with God.

WOW – This list is amazing, but the last several verses are what strike me the most. None of the examples, Paul said, “received what they had been promised”. The problem with faith is that we are not in control. God fulfills His promises on His time and according to His will. Does God’s timing mean God’s promises are any less real? Of course not, but we look at things from a human perspective and assume that if our desires are not met YET, then God is not faithful. God is always faithful, and faith is LIVING WITH THE ASSUMPTION that God is good and keeps His promises. Nothing less will do. I believe whole heartedly that our impatience, stubbornness, and lack of faith is often the cause of delay in seeing God’s promises fulfilled. The last verse is most amazing to me. The “hall of faith” requires “walking with God” for admittance. That seems obvious, but most of us don’t get it. The last verse specifically says that, “together with us” God will make things right. Faith REQUIRES action (see James 2), but not any action, ACTION WITH GOD. We often assume that if God says “jump” and we do, we are OK. But God literally says, I will jump with you, let’s do it together. Faith is walking, or jumping, along with God. We must work where He is working, walk where He is walking, serve who He is serving, and follow Him wherever He leads us. That is faith, and that is what God wants to bless.