**Jesus, Our Great High Priest**

**Hebrews: Hearing and Obeying God’s Son**

**Hebrews 11:1-40**

**Living by Faith in Our Great High Priest**

[Now that we have heard the truth about Jesus as Priest and Sacrifice, let’s be careful to apply it! How? By faith. . .]

Faith is the living choice by which we incarnate Christ, beginning with His creation and ownership of all. vv. 1, 2

Think about it: that’s how all of God’s servants were proven: v. 3

* Abel, for example, was justified by faith. v. 4
* Enoch showed that faith is the only way to please God. vv. 5, 6
* Noah showed that faith enables us to escape judgment. v. 7
* Abraham showed how to love God more than the world. vv. 8-10
* Sarah showed that we can trust God to keep His promises. vv. 11, 12
* The patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph) all exemplified that their faith looked beyond this present life. vv. 13-22
* Moses, too, acted in faith leading Israel out of Egypt, and even Rahab believed God as Israel entered the Promised Land. vv. 23-31

Many others showed that acts of faith lead to victory, and some, that God could keep them faithful even in suffering. All of these examples were for us, and we all will receive the promised inheritance at the right time. vv. 32-40

***So, once again, what is faith and how does it work?***

*1. Faith is NOT. . .*

* + *fearlessness, self-confidence, or irrationality.*
  + *intuition, “peace,” or “a certain feeling.”*
  + *an impression, dream, vision, or majority opinion.*

Faith IS the knowledge that what God says is true, and that we are both spiritually safe and morally wise when we act on that truth. Faith, therefore, opens our eyes to spiritual realities and strengthens our hearts to act accordingly. **So, this chapter is teaching that -- *What I hear of God’s Word, if I believe it, enables me to “see” things God tells me are realities, and brings me to obey Him as the trustworthy Creator of all things.***

*2. How does faith work, or how do we practice it?*

Our author’s answer to that question is to point to the heroes of the faith from bygone days. We discover them in many and varied circumstances, but all have in common that they took God at His word and acted accordingly, though they may not have done so perfectly or even consistently. But each example has its own lessons. . .

From Abel we learn obedience. From Enoch we learn persistence.

From Noah we learn preparation. From Sarah we learn patience.

From Moses we learn boldness. From Rahab we learn grace.

*3. Do I really have faith or just wishful thinking?*

Faith engages God’s Word, *i. e.*, knows and applies it. This means relentlessly applying the principles of God’s grace, love, and power to my life when I am, for example, sick, betrayed, maligned, or abandoned.