



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

HEBREWS 11:1-2, 4-13

LESSON: LEARN FROM GOOD EXAMPLES—

June 1, 2025

LESSON: I. HEBREWS 11:1-2

11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. "Now", meaning at this present time and situation you're going through, and faith "is" needed. Now faith is—It is in the present tense. It's not yesterday or tomorrow's faith we're living on, it's a living active faith we're living on "Now!" The Hebrews were just told in (10:38): "Now the just shall live by faith..." They're not to draw back. And here in this verse, "Now faith is the substance (the assurance; the confirmation, the title deed, the guarantee) of things they have hoped for..." And it is the "evidence" (Gr elegchos); the proof of things not seen. Everyone has faith in something.

There is your "natural faith" (general) and there is your "spiritual faith" (God kind).

- **Natural faith** comes so easily because we see the thing; we touch the thing in the physical. It's the bench or chair we take for granted to sit in, etc. It's the transportation we get in, and drive to a destination or even getting paid at the end of two weeks for the work done at the beginning of the 1st week.
- But for **spiritual faith**, it has to grow; it's the thing we don't see; we don't touch; it's the thing that the Word of God touches in the Spirit. Because we don't see it yet, we give faith the substance when we use the Word of God. It is the evidence of His promises. The evidence is the truth of the Word of God because of His promises. It hadn't manifested in the natural because it's in the Spirit. The thing we hope for is in the Spirit, and becomes a reality because we activated our faith. So, with faith we can bring things from the spirit world to the natural world. Things we can't see— are real. When you change your expectancy, you can see the promise. Faith doesn't doubt but gives thanks to what you don't see. If you already hold the "title deed" because of the promises of God, then faith is possessing the substance of the promises of God, and therefore the evidence is also there. Thank Him for it when you don't see it!

11:2 For by it the elders obtained a good report. The word "It" refers to "faith." The elders, the great men God used in the past, believed God, and followed God. They turned away from the world, the possessions, pleasures, and followed God. Therefore, they staked their lives, all they were, and had upon the assurance of what they hoped for. Their faith in God brought them to receive or obtain a good report. God accepted their faith and honored them; their faith in His Word showed they believed! He used their examples as a challenge to the believers of every generation. Now, that's faith!

NOT APART OF THE LESSON: VERSE 3

11:3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. What does faith give us to understand concerning the worlds?

1. That these worlds were not already here nor did they produce themselves, but they were created and framed by God.
2. That the Maker of the worlds is God. He is the Maker of all things.





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3. That He made the world with great exactness; it was a framed work, in everything duly adapted and disposed to answer its end.
4. That God made the world by His Word (Gen.1; Ps.33:6), that is, by His essential wisdom and eternal Son (Jh.1), and by His active will saying, "Let it be done, and it was done" (Ps.33: 9).
5. That the world was framed out of nothing, out of no pre-existent matter by God, who can call things that are not as if they were, and command them into being. These are the things we understand by faith.

The point is: the visible world that we see came from things that were not visible.

BACK TO THE LESSON: II. HEBREWS 11:4-13

11:4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. **Abel** tells us there is a way to be counted as righteous. How? By faith; by approaching and worshipping God exactly like He says to, that is, by the sacrifice of blood.

From the very first parents on earth (Adam and Eve), God laid it down, that the sin and guilt of man had to be borne by ether man himself or by a substitute. Man had to die for his own sins or else a substitute had to be sacrificed for his sins. This is what God did for Adam and Eve. He provided clothing to cover their nakedness; coats or skins from animals; a symbol that sin had to be covered by the shedding of blood. This was a symbol that pointed to the blood of Jesus Christ, the blood of God's Son that had to be shed in order to cover the sins of men. Adam and Eve taught this to their children.

The difference between Abel and Cain was that Abel believed God, Cain didn't. Cain made a material sacrifice (human works; fruits borne from the earth etc.) and offered it to God. Abel believed God would count him righteous if he let another, bear his sins for him; all by faith. Abel recognized that he was sinful and imperfect, and that he could never be acceptable to God who is perfect and holy, not until his sins and guilt had been paid for and removed before he could ever be accepted by God. Therefore, he obtained witness for God testified of it, that this was the more excellent sacrifice. Even through Abel's death, his faith is yet still speaking; still giving a good report; still testifying of his gift. Faith touched the Creator!

11:5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. **Enoch** believed and trusted God. Day by day he walked and fellowshiped with God. God even conquered death for Enoch, for he surrendered, and lived a faithful life unto God. Faith took a hold of him. He was "**translated**" (*moved from one place to another; carried away*) that he should not see death. God transferred him right on into heaven, right into God's very own home. He lived so close to God that his testimony was that he pleased God in the midst of dying men, and he was then not seen by anyone.

11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. One can't please God without having faith. You can't even come to God if you don't believe that He is God. And you can't even be rewarded if you don't diligently seek Him. Faith is the first step! This is an active living faith that knows and follows God, communes and fellowships with Him. It doesn't matter what a person does in life, without exercising faith, it is clear that one cannot please God! It's impossible! A person that comes to God must believe two things:

1. He must believe in God—that God exists. The words "must believe" (pisteusai dei) mean necessary



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and essential, absolutely necessary and essential.

2. He must believe that God rewards those who diligently seek Him. The word "**diligently**" (ekzetousin) means to conscientiously (put forth careful attention) seek out God.
- By diligently seeking God, we "*hunger and thirst after righteousness.*"
 - By diligently seeking God, we "*ask, seek, and knock.*"
 - By diligently seeking God, we "*seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.*"
 - By diligently seeking God, we "*pray and fast*", that is, to persevere in prayer.
- The greater the need, the greater amount of time true faith spends speaking forth the need.
 - The greater the need, the more diligent true faith seeks the answer to its need.

What is the reward to those who diligently seek God? It's the same reward given to Abel and Enoch: righteousness and pleasing God.

11:7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. God takes the time to warn Noah of things he has not encountered yet because of his faith. When the warning comes, he is moved with a fear; a reverence before God, and he diligently takes God at His Word. As God speaks we are to listen. This was the warning of coming judgment, and Noah was to warn others, but Noah is to prepare by building an Ark to save his family; his house, for the world will be condemned, and Noah's reward is three-fold...

- The salvation of Noah's house. Noah believed God; he believed God's warning of coming judgment.
- The world was condemned, but Noah's faith was vindicated. The world ridiculed him, but he was right.
- Noah was counted righteous. He believed God, and God counted his faith as righteous.

There is nothing else upon earth that can cause God to count a man righteous, but faith; and faith in the Promised Seed.

11:8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

- God gave Abraham a great Clairton Call—go out; leave (your place), you will receive an inheritance.
- There was a hopeful obedient belief in Abraham, for he didn't even know where he was going, but when God called, he acted immediately.

NOTE: A person who truly believes God, obeys God. There is no such thing as belief without obedience, not genuine belief.

11:9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:— Abraham never received the inheritance of the Promised Land, never even owned a piece of land. He was only a sojourner by faith dwelling in tabernacles from place to place in a strange country. He lived a ripe old age to see both his son and grandson born, and witnessed them become the heirs of promise. They were heirs, but not inheritors of the land. However, Abraham still believed in the hope God had given him. He believed it so strongly that he even taught the same promises to his son Isaac, and his grandson Jacob.

11:10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

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Abraham's reward was the great city which had foundations whose builder and maker is God. he looked beyond this world to heaven. This refers to the new heaven and earth. **The point** to see is the great faith of Abraham. He believed that God was going to give him the land of Canaan which was a type or symbol of the great land of heaven, the great city whose builder and maker is God.

11:11 Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. We have to remember that **Sara** was past child bearing age, but God gave her strength to conceive, see, and deliver a child. Why? Because **she** judged (meaning counted) God faithful who had promised! Remember, when she was told that she would bear a son, she laughed, but we see that faith had to grow. She bore the child Isaac at the age of 90. ¹God promised that Isaac would be the (the promised son), the first of a very large family. They would *be like the stars in the sky and the sand by the sea - too many to count*. God cannot lie. He cannot deceive people, therefore the promises of God—every single one, shall be fulfilled! The promise of the Seed, that is of the Savior, applies only to those who believe!

11:12 Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable. Sarah was not the only one. There sprang even from the man, Abraham, one as good as dead, from which came descendants as many as the stars of heaven, and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. This is called the patriarch's faith—they all died in faith! This refers to Abraham, Issac, and Jacob, and other ancient men who had great faith in God and His promises, but never received the promise on earth. Their faith was...

1. A **Visionary Faith (v.13a)**. They saw the promise of God afar off, not by sight, but in their hearts and minds—a country—a better country—a heavenly world. In Jh.8:56 Christ said *"Abraham saw His day and rejoiced in the hope of it."*
2. A **Growing Faith (v.13b)**. *"They were persuaded (convinced), and embraced, and confessed that they were foreigners and strangers on earth"* meaning they were just passing through until they could inherit the glorious hope of the Promised Land!
3. A **Working Faith (v.14)**. *"They sought and plainly declared that they were seeking a country."*
4. An **Enduring Faith (v.15)**. They did not return to their old thinking or land.

Believers are only strangers and pilgrims on earth. They're only passing through this earth, for this life is ever so brief and corrupt. We are heirs and citizens of heaven. So, we see that this passage is a picture of the great faith of the believers. They are examples of the faith of God's pilgrims upon the earth.

SUMMARY:

In order to have steadfast confidence, faith is brought into play. The substance of our faith is "now." It has to be solid confidence in something that has not been brought to light. You don't see it manifested in the natural, but it's in the spirit. It's not in your hands yet, but the Word of God says it will be. It's that confident

¹ <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/hebrews-lbw.htm>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>





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assurance that will bring forth the evidence not seen. The elders walked by it. That's why they have a good report; they have testimony that it works. The worlds were even framed by it when God spoke it forth. They came from what was not even seen by the human eye, but by God who was the One who created the heavens and the earth; the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters; and the light of Jesus shown forth to bring forth the manifestation of the Words spoken by faith. We understand this by faith even though we didn't witness it. No other could have framed the worlds with such enormity as God (**11:1-3**).

Abel tells us there is a way to be counted as righteous, and that is by faith. Faith took a hold of **Enoch**. He surrendered and lived a faithful life until God took him up with Him. It is truly impossible to even come to God or please Him if we didn't have faith in Him; that He is God. You could not even fake it because He would know it. You must believe that He is the One that can do all things no matter what it is if you expect to receive the reward of what you've asked for or what you've had confident assurance in. God rewards those who diligently seek Him. "Seek" means to look diligently (conscientiously) for His presence! His presence is in His Word; it's in the faith of what His Word promises; of what you haven't seen; of what you have spoken forth because it will be the same of what He has spoken forth for your life. Steadfast is unwavering and being committed because there will be a reward! (**11:4-6**).

²What kind of faith pleases God?

"Worshipping faith" like that of Abel

"Walking faith" like that of Enoch

"Working faith" like that of Noah ...but also a

"Waiting faith" seen in the patriarchs (Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph)!

Faith is our key as we continue to look at the stories in the hall of faith. The story of **Noah** teaches obedience as he built an Ark to save his family after receiving the warning of coming judgment from God. **Abraham's** faith shows us the urgency of when God called him to go out into a place he didn't even know of or where, he instantly went. He sojourned in the land of promise faithfully; in an unknown strange country, also with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise. They believed and looked for a city which had foundations whose builder and maker is God. The faith of **Sara** received strength to conceive seed, and delivered that child when she was past child bearing age, because she was judged (meaning counted) God as faithful who had promised. Sara was not the only one. There also sprang even from the man, **Abraham**, one as good as dead, from which came descendants as many as the stars of heaven, and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore. All the patriarchs all died in faith; men who had great faith in God, and His promises, but never received the promise on earth (**11:7-13**).

APPLICATION:

Choose to persevere steadfastly in the faith of what Christ has done for all of us. There are no more sacrifices. The cost was great for Him. We can never enter into His presence on anything we have done, only on what Christ has done. His blood and His body are not questionable for us to doubt. You don't want to be on the wrong side when He comes back.

² https://executableoutlines.com/textual_series/hebrews/he_26.html
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

