

/Hello./ We will now begin with the eleventh lecture on the Book of Hebrews./ The title of chapter 11 is "Faith."

/First,/ the outcome of faith./ Verses 1-3./ Second,/ proof of faith./ Verses 4-12.

/Third,/ the reality of faith./ Verses 13-16./ Fourth,/ steps of faith./ Verses 17-31./ Fifth,/ the power of faith./ Verses 32-40.

/Verse 1./ Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

/Faith is/ being sure /that God /will accomplish everything /that he promised us in Christ.

/Faith is/ grace that binds/ the believer with the things he looks upon./ We studied up until chapter 10 in our previous lectures./ In those lectures, we saw that believers endured sufferings./ The reason was / because they looked upon the eternal inheritance in heaven.

/They advanced while persevering./ They did this/ because they knew that they would face the coming Lord,/ and stand before the glorious Lord./ We must go forward with faith /for this.

/In chapter 11,/ it speaks of the patience of those who endured with faith /in the Old Testament times /before they received God's promise. /In other words, /it means that only those who endure with faith to the end /can persevere and submit to God's will.

/They can participate in the glory promised by the gospel./ It says in verse 1, "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."/ Faith is believing in the Word of God.

/We cannot see what will happen in the future./ For example, we have not been to heaven./ Yet, through faith,/ it will become a reality to us./ Though we have not yet been to heaven,/ it will become certain through faith.

/We do not have to visit heaven right now./ By faith,/ heaven becomes real and visible to us./ Now, let's say there is a telescope,/ and with it we can look at things that are far away./ The telescope of the world/ shows us worldly things.

/It cannot show us heavenly things./ However, the telescope of faith/ shows us/ things outside the five senses./ It reveals things that belong to God/ through the light of testimony/ and power./ We look upon the future with hope.

/Therefore, it is necessary that we examine ourselves/ if we claim we believe./ If we believe that sin is evil,/ we must hate sin./ If we believe that we will stand before Christ on judgment day,/ we must keep that in mind as we live.

/If we believe that this world is empty,/ we will not be led away by this world./ If we believe that God provides us with things we need,/ we will no longer fear tomorrow./ If we believe that prayer is the means in which we can grow in grace, /we will pray more diligently in the private rooms.

/If we believe in Christ's Second Coming,/ we will prepare for that day./ These types of faith/ will be recognized by God.

/Verse 2 says, “This is what the ancients were commended for.”

/The forefathers /testified to God’s promise with faith.

/Verse 3 says,/ “By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command.”

/Faith/ makes us believe in things that are not believable./ This world that we live in was formed at God’s command.

/Verse 4/speaks of the faith of Abel./ By faith, Abel offered a sacrifice to God./ He was the first to offer a sacrifice in the Bible./ His faith was precious.

/He did not have anyone to look up to,/ nor did he have a role model/ or anyone who taught him./ He did not know through feelings./ He acted with faith./ In Romans 10:17,/ it says, “Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.”

/There was a reason why Abel offered a sacrifice to God with faith./ After Adam sinned, God clothed Adam and Eve with garments of skin./ Genesis 3:21/ After they sinned,/ they tried to cover their bodies with fig tree leaves but it was of no use.

/Sin can only be solved/ by the redemption of Christ./ Hence, Abel/ offered the firstborn of his flock and oil/ just as he learned from Adam.

/What is the meaning of Abel’s sacrifice of the firstborn of his flock?/ It means that just as that lamb died for his sins,/ Christ would come to atone for our sins in the future.

/Therefore, people must acknowledge that they are sinners./ It was right for Adam to be banished from the Garden of Eden,/ and God’s punishment was just./ Abel looked upon the death of the coming Christ/ and he saw that sinners would be accepted by God in Christ.

/A life of faith begins/ from the offering of a lamb./ Repentance begins/ with the recognition of sin./ We must know that we are sinful/ to look upon our Savior/ and accept Christ.

/However, Cain offered/ some of the fruits of the soil./ This refers to grains./ Because Cain offered a sacrifice to God,/ he did acknowledge the existence of God./ However, his sin was/ that he did not offer a sacrifice according to God’s method.

/In Hebrews 9:22b,/ it says, “and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.”/ Yet, Cain offered a bloodless offering./ He gave an offering of the fruit of the earth./ He ignored God’s word in Genesis 3:21./ In Genesis 3:22, God clothed Adam and Eve with garments of skin.

/Worshipping God without obedience to God’s will is an act of hypocrisy./ Cain served God in his own way /with unbelief, /disobedience, /and with religious hypocrisy. /He worshipped God with his lips, /but his heart was far from God.

/However, Abel offered his sacrifice with faith./ Faith is obedience to God’s word of promise. /Disobedience to God’s word /is not faith. /The people of faith who went before us /all believed in God’s word.

/Moreover, Abel/ offered his sacrifice voluntarily./ 2 Corinthians 8:12/ Our God does not delight in forced offerings/ but wants us to give offerings voluntarily./ There is thankfulness, /joy, /and peace /in a voluntary heart.

/However, there are complaints and annoyances /in forced hearts. /The devil /tries to lead us away from God's word /so that we would not live by faith. /Abel /offered a sacrifice with faith /and was called righteous.

/There is only one thing of which we can be acknowledged before God and that/ is Christ's perfect sacrifice./ Proof of righteousness /is faith. /Abel died, but he still speaks by faith.

/What does this mean?/It means that through his obedience in faith/ he preached to us about what is most important.

/Next, we see the faith of Enoch./ Verses 5-6./ "By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death."

/Enoch walked with God./ To walk with God /means to submit /our lives to God, /receive God's reign /and live for God.

/Enoch/ lived this way for 300 years./ He ascended into heaven while he lived in that way./ Now,/ just as Enoch's ascension was the supernatural work of God,/ our regeneration, repentance, and faith are supernatural works of God as well.

/When Enoch was 65 years old, he gave birth to Methuselah, /and he walked with God for 300 years. / He lived three thousand and three hundred years before Jesus came, and/ he lived five thousand and three hundred years from today./ Enoch lived a life pleasing to God.

/We must look at Enoch /and ask ourselves, why is our faith so weak? /Why can't we cut off the things of the world? /Our weak faith is proof /that we do not work to please God.

/Enoch/ believed in the Word of God./ In chapter 11,/ it says "by faith" at the beginning of the verses before the names of people./ In Romans 10:17,/ it says, "Consequently, faith comes from hearing /the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ."

/Faith is strong if it is from the Word of God./ Because Enoch did not experience death,/ it is proof that he believed in God's./ Yet, this is not clearly written in the Bible.

/Because Enoch received God's word,/ he held onto it/ and believed in God's unchanging word /after a hundred, /two hundreds, /and three hundred years.

/Life was not that easy/ in the times of Enoch./ In the Book of Jude, /it says in verse 14, "Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men." /Verse 15 says, "to judge everyone, /and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way,/ and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him."

/There were some ungodly occurrences in the times of Enoch./ Still, Enoch kept his faith/ as he gave birth to his offspring./ Thus, we can see /that the times of Enoch were not peaceful times. /There were many ungodly people at the time.

/Enoch had children and kept his faith./ He kept his faith while he lived /a social and family-centered life./ Enoch approached God.

/In verse 6, it says, “anyone who comes to him.”

/Those who go to God /refer to those who go before God /and communicate with him in spirit /in heart and spirit. /Isaiah 29:13 /Romans 8:8.

/It says, “those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.”/ It says, those controlled by the sinful nature are those who have not been born again./ However, Enoch/ pleased God,/ believed in his word,/ and approached God with faith.

/Verse 7/ is about the faith of Noah./ He was saved from the judgment of flood by building an ark./ If he had not built the ark, he would not have been saved.

/There is one question that can be raised here./ We know that when we say we are saved by faith,/ we are saved by God’s grace. We are not saved by our deeds.

/However, the building of the ark in the text /is an emphasis of the need to act.

/We saw this in chapter 10 as well./ Just because we are saved by faith, it does not mean that we must stay put./ We discussed many phrases used in chapter 10./ Hold tight./ Do not step back./ You must encounter many sufferings to enter the kingdom of heaven.

/Persevere. /We learn through these passages /that is man is truly saved by faith, /he must believe in God’s promise /and continually walk down the road of obedience.

/Noah/ was warned of things not yet seen./ He was warned of something that would take place 120 years later. /Also, with his physical condition, /it was not easy to build an ark.

/There was no heavy rain/ so he may have doubted that a flood would come to destroy all humanity. /The flood would also come 120 years later. /Noah would have been ridiculed /if he built the ark, /and Noah did not even know how to make an ark.

/Furthermore, he could have questioned whether the huge ark could float or not. /The ark had no sail, pole, or anchor. /It had no steering gear. /It also would have been extremely difficult to live in the ark.

/However, Noah obeyed God’s word./ What is the difference between a believer and an unbeliever?/ A believer obeys God’s as it is,/ and an unbeliever lives according to his sinful nature.

/According to 1 John 2:4,/ a man who does not follow the commandments/ even though he says he loves God/ is a liar,/ and the truth is not in him./ However, a saved man/ obeys God’s commands. /True believers walk down the road of obedience.

/Noah/ he feared God/ and he believed./ Then he built the ark./ If a man truly believes,/ obedience will naturally follow./ Here is shows the difference between the Books of Romans and James.

/Romans says that we are saved by faith,/ and James says that those with such faith will naturally

obey./ Therefore, faith without obedience/ is dead faith.

/Just as a person is dead/ when his soul departs,/ a person who does not obey God's word/ while claiming to believe in God/ has dead faith./ Dead faith cannot receive salvation.

/That is what James chapter 2 speaks of./ We are not saved by/ keeping the law/ but by believing that Jesus Christ is Savior.

/One who is saved /is born again, /and he lives a life of obedience to God's word. /He follows God's word. /God is his Lord /even if humanly thoughts say otherwise.

/He knows that the works of the Lord are good, /and he believes in the Almighty God /and obeys God. /This is what it means to build the ark.

/There is a difference between the Book of Romans and the Book of James./ However, salvation by faith /and becoming righteous by deeds /is not a separate truth but is one.

/Romans emphasizes salvation by faith,/ and James emphasizes that the saved will obey./ Noah saved his household/ through such obedience.

/The eight members of his family were all saved./ Yet, they were not saved by Noah's faith,/ but were saved by their individual faith.

/One cannot be saved by another person's faith./ We are saved by our personal faith./ Thus, it says, "By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith."

/The word "righteousness" refers to justification./ One is declared righteous by faith, /and he receives the right to be called righteous.

/With verse 8,/ let's think about the faith of Abraham./ By faith, Abraham/ obediently went to the promised land/ when he was called to go./ That land was the land of Canaan./ When Abraham first went to there, he did not know it was the land of Canaan.

/Canaan is a symbol of heaven,/ and God spoke to Abraham in this way./ Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you./ At that time, Abraham was about 75 years old and he was soon to be 80 years old.

/He did not know where to go,/ he had to abandon his riches and leave his home./ He had to cut off his family/ and leave a comfortable life./ Physically, it was not a delightful command.

/Before we believed in Jesus, we were of this world./ However, when God called Abraham,/ he commanded Abraham/ to leave his country, his people, and his father's household./ This means that we must leave the old lifestyle.

/God commands us, the descendants of Abraham, /to leave this world and leave sin. /To follow the Lord /is to deny oneself. /It is the way of carrying the cross.

/When God calls, /he calls in two ways. /There is an external calling and an internal calling. /The external calling says, "For many are invited." /The internal calling says, /"but few are chosen."

/Even today, a lot of people hear the gospel, /but only a few truly believe. /Those who believe are those who have been called internally. /When Abraham obeyed and went, /he did not know where he was going. /Still, he obeyed God's word.

/Obedience to God's word / comes from love for God, /and it is to follow God's power. /Let's think about this. /If a stranger came and told you to follow him, /would you follow him?

/Abraham believed in God's word and followed God./ He was not anxious about the future/ and he simply followed God's guidance./ Let us think about this./ Regarding the problem of tithes, /do we not give tithes to God because we believe it is a loss to us?

/Why would we not close our businesses on Sundays to earn more money?/ Abraham/ obeyed God./ God requires us to obey.

/Our obedience,/as saved believers,/ glorifies God./ Obedience testifies that the grace of God is enough,/ it shows that we are children of God,/ and it keeps us from being destroyed.

/Anyone who has the faith of Abraham/ lives with such faith./ Only those who have the faith of Abraham/ will participate in the inheritance of heaven.

/In verse 9,/ it says that Abraham lived in tents./ This means that/ he lived like a stranger,/ as someone who would not live on this earth forever.

/Abraham looked upon heaven/ while he lived as one who would temporarily live in this world./ It was not because Abraham was poor./ In Genesis 13:2,/ it says that he was wealthy in silver and gold.

/To live like a stranger/ is to not have an attachment to this earth./ Abraham lived by faith while he held on to the promise of God./ His heart was in spiritual things rather than earthly things./ He endured and lived with hope.

/Because Abraham left when he was 75 years old,/ and because he gave birth to Isaac when he was 100 years old,/ about 25 years had passed./ Because Isaac gave birth to Jacob when he was 60,/ about 85 years had passed since then./ Hence, Abraham lived in tents for about 100 years.

/In verses 11-12,/ it speaks of Sarah's faith./ It says, "and Sarah herself was barren."/ Sarah was in a situation where it was hard to keep her faith./ She was old./ She was barren./ She had stopped menstruating.

/It means that she could not have children./ She was about 90 years old./ It is simply impossible./ This was why Sarah laughed a bit at first./ Yet, here, it says, "by faith,"/ which means that Sarah believed in God's word.

/She believed/ that God is faithful./ Thus, it says, "and so from one man,/ and he was as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore."/ Therefore, we must not be detained in our weaknesses.

/Our faith /is not about looking at ourselves, /but it is about looking to God. /We gain strength /and power /when we rely on God. /When we are bound by thoughts of the flesh, /things seem impossible /to achieve, /and things seem unstable.

/Sarah believed and obeyed with faith,/ and hence, she gained strength to become pregnant by the power of God.

/Verse 13/ tells us that all these people were still living by faith when they died./ Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and Sarah/ never committed apostasy.

/They had confidence of the glory of heaven and its inheritance./ In order for us to die by faith,/ we must live by faith.

/Though they did not receive the fulfillment of the promise, they looked at it from afar./ This promise is about Christ./ They looked to the Messiah from afar.

/Abraham look upon the faint light from afar /2,000 years before Jesus came, /Moses 1,500 years before, /David 1,000 years before, /and Isaiah 700 years before. /They looked upon Christ /and they lived as aliens and strangers in the land.

/They lived in this way/ because they looked upon their country./ They looked upon their country, /which means that they threw away the things of the world /and looked for heaven.

/We must think of our country, /become worthy, /and strive to have acceptable characters. /We must strive to live in such ways /and strive to reach that place.

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

/This means that their hearts were not on earthly things./ They knew the way to return home./ They had wealth/ and time./ They were healthy enough to go back.

/In the same way, we always have the chance to return to the world./ However, Abraham did not return./ He looked to God/ and lived with heavenly hope.

/That is because we have a Father./ He looked upon the Lord.

/Verse 17/ is a well-known verse./Abraham offered Isaac to God./ God tested Abraham's obedience./ God wanted to know if Abraham loved Isaac more than God.

/Regarding Isaac, God said/ that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky./ However, if that son died,/ how would that promise be fulfilled?

/Still, Abraham believed that/ even if Isaac was killed,/ God would bring Isaac to life /and fulfill his promise. /Hence, Abraham /obeyed with faith.

/Faith makes us make right judgments, /gets rid of our doubts, /and makes our every thought submit to Christ. /Faith makes us look upon the future. /Thus, Abraham's faith was acknowledge before God. /Romans 4:17-24 /4:17-24.

/We must glorify God with faith to obey as Abraham did.

/With this we will conclude the eleventh lecture on the Book of Hebrews./ Thank you.