

## Foundations For Your Faith - Lesson 14 NIV Hebrews 11:1-22 – Biblical Faith

Read Hebrews 11:1-22 carefully, several times, and then answer the following questions from the verses as noted.

From the following verses from Hebrews 11, select the word or words in each verse that show the “basis” of the faith described. (*What they believed & why*)

7  
8  
9  
11  
13  
17

What is the *source* and *cause* of faith? Romans 10:17

Why do we have faith & others do not? Where did it originate? What was its cause?  
Did we manufacture our own faith?  
Eph. 2:8-9, Acts 16:14, Acts 13:48

Heb. 11:3 “Do we understand and therefore have faith”, or..... “We have faith and therefore we understand”? (Show me and I will have faith ..)

In the relationship between “*faith and works*”, which is the fruit and which is the root?  
Root:  
Fruit:

Does James (2) contradict Paul (Romans 3-5) “salvation by faith alone”? Explain.

In Hebrews 11:4-22. find the verbs (actions) that demonstrate that these individuals had genuine faith?

In Hebrews 11:17-19 (See also Romans 4:17-21) Why did Abraham believe God would raise Isaac from the dead when Abraham killed him on the altar?

Write out your own definition of “faith”:

**Quiz on Lesson 14 NIV**  
**Foundations for Your Faith Hebrews Chapter 11**

1. What is a key verse in this chapter refuting evolution?
2. Heb. 11:3 teaches: “We have \_\_\_\_\_ therefore we \_\_\_\_\_.”
3. What did the individuals in Hebrews 11 base their faith on?
4. Faith \_\_\_\_\_ the promises and \_\_\_\_\_ the commands.
5. What is the difference between faith and presumption?
6. What verse shows us that God’s word is the source of our faith?
7. What verse shows us that faith is the gift of God?
8. Biblical faith is: “God enabling man to do \_\_\_\_\_ .”
9. Why did Abraham believe God would raise Isaac from the dead?

**10. REVIEW FROM PREVIOUS LESSONS**

Define the following terms and give a scripture passage for each.

**Inspiration:**

**Justification:**

**Imputation:**

**Sanctification:**

**Extra credit: Define the three tenses of sanctification**

**Past**

**Present**

**Future**

11. What are two aspects of God’s will?
12. What biblical passage reveals a double imputation?

## Teacher's Guide - Foundations For Your Faith - Lesson 14 NIV Hebrews 11:1-22 Biblical Faith

### *The Foundation, function and fruit of genuine saving faith.....*

- **There is a faith that does not save. James 2:19**

#### **Thought Question: Does Satan believe in God?**

- That there is one God;
- that Jesus Christ is the Son of God;
- that Jesus died on the cross;
- that Jesus arose from the dead?

#### **Do you believe in that?**

#### **How does your faith differ from that of the Devil's?**

#### HISTORIC FAITH

- **There is a faith in the facts...a historic faith...that isn't a saving faith**

#### **The Church Theologian Augustine, 4<sup>th</sup> Century, said true saving faith had three elements:**

##### **1. Notitia = knowledge of the facts;** that is where faith must begin.

You cannot believe in something that you have not heard.

"how can they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?" Rom. 10

##### **2. Assensus = mental assent;** we assent to those facts which means a non-arguing acceptance. Head knowledge. No heart knowledge or application.

##### **3. Fiducia = Complete trust or entrusting** "I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed....." A complete embracing and clinging to Christ to save me

You came into the room and took *knowledge* that there were chairs in the room. You *assented* to the fact that they were chairs. But you did not put your *trust* in a chair until you sat on one; rested your weight upon it; depended on it by a personal entrusting of yourself to it. You were not saved until you trusted in Christ.

- **Repentance and trust are the essence of saving faith .**
- **Repentance is the awareness of my desperate need,**
- **Trust is the casting of myself completely on Christ to save me** from God's wrath and deserved judgment

#### **Heb. 11:13 see KJV**

They **saw** them (Notitia);

were **persuaded** (Assensus);

and **embraced** them (Fiducia). They took them to themselves; entrusted it for themselves.

- **FAITH = There is a counterfeit faith that is centered in and on the will of man.**  
 Me getting God to do my will by believing enough to get God to respond.+  
 If you don't get what you want, then you don't have enough faith.

**This concept of faith makes *God the means to getting my desires met*; and faith becomes the tool by which I manipulate God to come through and do what I want Him to do.**

- ***Faith is self-centered.***
- ***God is but the means to a greater end...my own wants and desires.***

Hinn; Copeland; Oral Roberts; ***this is the faith concept of most untaught believers.***  
 They view faith as a tool to manipulate God.

***"Name it and Claim it"***

They are claiming *what they want*.

Faith is believing God enough to get God to respond to what I want.

- ***What is at the center of this faith? SELF..... My desires..... (See James 4:1-3)***

- ***What is the basis of their faith? Their own faith!***

***They are exercising faith in their faith!***

They view their own faith+as the most important thing . and their own desires as the motivation to have such faith. ***It is all self centered and man-focused.***

This is not a biblical faith at all.

- ***In Heb. 11 we see God enabling them to do what God wanted them to do.***

These people did not do what they wanted; it wasn't their bright idea to do what they did; They did what God had clearly commanded them to do.

***Here is a faith that is centered in and on the will of God.***

- ***Biblical faith is God enabling me to do His will.***

God, giving me the strength, courage, and commitment to do what He tells me to do.

The courage to OBEY HIM.

***Warren Wiersbe: "Faith is not believing in spite of the evidence; it is obeying in spite of the consequence."***

***Who is at the center of this Heb. 11 faith? God...***

In Acts 4, when persecution set in, they never once prayed: *Lord, take the persecution away+*  
 Because the Lord told them, "in the world you will have persecution". They only prayed for one thingō ***"Lord give us boldness that we may continue to preach your word without fear+; Give us courage to be witnesses...to keep on obeying!"***

A lot of what goes by the title of *faith+*is nothing more than selfish arrogance and presumption;  
*covetousness with a religious coating* on top. When Roberts or other false teachers say "get

your own little miracle"ō what are they appealing to? **Our own innate desires. This is not God-centered**, and this leads to failure because this **makes a god of our own desires.**

• ***God is just the means to my own greater gratification.*** (Satan's accusation in Job 1-2)  
From the following verses from Hebrews 11, select the word or words in each verse that show the "**basis**" of the faith described. (What they believed & why)

- 7: warned - God speaking to him.
- 8: called - (not feelings or dreams) God spoke to him.
- 9: promise
- 11: promised
- 13: promises - fulfillment of the promises
- 17: promises

In every case it was the spoken Word of God they responded to....faith was responding to the WORD

• ***What can I be absolutely sure of by way of faith? Only what God has clearly promised. If God has not promised it, we cannot know it.***

If we profess to know things that God has never promised, we make ourselves liars and we discredit our entire message. Why should I expect anything God has never promised?

• ***This is the difference between faith and presumption:***

***Faith rests on the Word of God***

***Presumption rests on my own contrived ideas, plans, and assumptions***

**What is the source and cause of faith? Romans 10:17**

***The Word of God.***

Salvation is always ***through faith***. **Salvation does not originate in your faith.**

- ***Salvation's origin is the grace of God . faith is the channel*** through which we receive God's grace, the gift of eternal life;
- ***Faith is not the cause of salvation, it is the means.***
- ***Grace is the cause!***

- **Why do we have faith & others do not?**
- **Where did it originate?**
- **What was its cause?**
- **Did we manufacture our own faith?**

***Faith is a gift. It is created by the Word of God.***

**See Eph. 2:8-9, Acts 16:14, Acts 13:48**

The faith with which we are saved is ours, but it is ours as a gift from the Lord Jesus Christ. He gave us the faith by which we believe.

• Faith is the means of salvation, not the source (by grace).  
Grace is the source of salvation. BY graceō .THROUGH faithō .

• We are saved by grace (source) through faith (channel)

Ex. Power lines: The cable is the channel (faith);

The power comes from the generation plant (grace)

- If faith, as an entity in itself, saved; then anyone that believed anything would be saved. It would be the act of believing that would save. Faith would then be the source of my salvation. But it is not! Faith is not the source of salvation. God is! It is the finished work of Christ; the grace of God. His grace is the source of our salvation.

**Heb. 11:3 “Do we understand and therefore have faith”, or..... “We have faith and therefore we understand”?** (Show me and I will have faith ..)

**Faith is the cause of understanding** . this is what makes faith what it is . Faith is the evidence of things not seen!

- *If it is seen and explained, it no longer takes faith. It only takes reason.*

Those who did not have the written word of God had to determine if it was God who was speaking to them, or just their imaginations. They also had to trust their memories. We have the written Word of God.....we are those who have the word of prophecy made more certain in the written word. 2 Peter 1:19-21

**In the relationship between faith and works, which is the root?**

**Faith is the root. Works is the fruit.**

Works prove life; works prove a living faith. A dead faith produces nothing.

Thought Question

- **Does James (2) contradict Paul (Romans 3-5) “salvation by faith alone”? Explain.**

**There is no contradiction between Paul and James.**

*Paul is defining the essence of salvation* . that it is by faith alone.

*James is defining the essence of the faith that saves* . that is an active, responding, obedient, living faith.

We might say it another way

- Paul defines the essence of faith,
- James defines the evidence of faith.

*Paul says: You are saved by faith alone.*

*James says: And the faith that saves never remains alone, it always produces obedience.*

**In Hebrews 11:4-22. find the verbs (actions) that demonstrate that these individuals had genuine faith?**

**BY FAITH THEY DID SOMETHING!!!! It doesn't say “by faith they believed....”**

(The verbs)

- |               |                                |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| 4: offered    | 17: obeyed; stayed; offered    |
| 5: pleased    | 20: blessed                    |
| 7: prepared   | 21: worshiped                  |
| 8: obeyed     | 22: made mention; gave command |
| 9: sojourned  |                                |
| 10: looked    |                                |
| 11: received  |                                |
| 13: confessed |                                |

**In Hebrews 11:17-19 (See also Romans 4:17-21)**

**Why did Abraham believe God would raise Isaac from the dead if and when Abraham would kill him on the altar?**

**He believed God had *the power* to do what He said He would do; and *the faithfulness* to always do what He had promised. (Gen. 17:19; 15:5)**

Gen. 15:5 "so shall thy seed be" 17:19 "and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him"

***Abraham believed because of the promise of God;*** that God would have to raise Isaac from the dead, in order for Isaac to have children and fulfill God's promise; and that God was able to raise Isaac up from the dead. Isaac is going to have kids! Genesis 15:5; 17:9

***Abraham believed that he would kill Isaac; that he would burn Isaac to ashes and that out of the ashes God would raise his son and fulfill His promise of Isaac's seed.***

Gen. 22:5 - "..... I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come (pl. [we will come]) again to you." **We** will go yonder (sacrifice); **we** will worship (killing his son); and **we** will come back (God raising up his son out of the ashes).

**On what basis did he have to believe that God would raise him up out of the ashes?**

***GOD'S CLEAR PROMISE!***

- Faith doesn't listen for explanations, it listens for orders! E Elliot
- Faith is not believing in spite of the evidence but obeying in spite of the consequence! W W W

**Heb. 11:19; 11:11. Two key attributes of God that these patriarchs believed:**

**1) God is able to do what He said.**

**2) God is faithful to do what He said.**

*Complete faith can only be placed in God's word...for the words of men are fallible*

A person can have the ability to keep their word, and yet not be faithful to do so.

A person can be faithful and sincere in giving their word, and yet not have the ability to do what they promised.

- **God is able and God is faithful.**

- 

Rom. 4:18 - Abraham was impotent and Sarah was barren. Humanly speaking it was against all common sense. ".....according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be."

He did not make his ability foundational to his faith. His faith rested not on what he could do but what God could do.

**What God says He will do He is able to do. 1 Thess. 5:24**

Heb. 11:12 - ".....as good as dead." It had nothing to do with Abraham's ability.

Abraham built his faith logically on the promises.

Consider also that Isaac had to submit because of his father's age and trusted in God's promise.

So the Word is the foundation, source, and producer of faith. Faith is God's gift.

Galatians and Romans talk about faith as the root and James talks about works being the fruit.

**The emphasis of Galatians and Romans is on the essence of salvation; the emphasis of James is the evidence of it.**

**In every case, faith led to obedience.**

**Faith that does not result in obedience to the commands does not qualify as Biblical faith. Biblical faith always obeys.**

**Write out your own definition of “faith”:**

**“ Faith is the confidence in my heart that God will do what He has promised, enabling me to obey His commands. God enabling me to do His will.....”**

Faith is not an ostrich, head-in-the-sand denial of the inevitable or the obvious; it's not pretending something to be true when you know it isn't; That's fear and foolishness, not faith.

Faith is not anti-intellectual. It is not a warm feeling that requires you to check your brains at the door. That's feeling, not faith.

Faith is not stained glass and dreams. I cannot stay in church, hiding from the world. That's fluff, not faith.

Faith is not some high-powered motivational speaker demanding money or teaching self realization or breathing exercises. That's fad, not faith.

**“Faith is believing the Word of God and acting upon it, no matter how I feel, because God promises a good result”**