

Discussion Guide: Hall of Fame of Faith - Part 1

*Let your light shine before men,
that they may see your good deeds and
praise your Father in heaven.
Matthew 5:16b (NIV)*

June 8, 2003: "Hall of Fame of Faith - Part 1" by Pastor Kimber Kauffman, Senior Pastor College Park Church. Pastor Kauffman started a new series based on Hebrews 11 with the focus on having faith in Jesus and living by this faith until your last dying breath.

Hebrews is a letter written to Jewish Christians who were going through many trials and struggles. The author's intention is to stir up their love, hope, and faith in Jesus Christ through instruction and exhortation about loving one another, encouraging one another, and realizing Jesus in the Author of their faith.

Pastor Kauffman explained true faith recognizes our own sinfulness and depravity and God's mercy and grace in our lives. Our faith is based on His work and not our works (Ephesians 2:8-10). A sign of true faith is deeds done for His glory and kingdom (James 2:14-26), not for our personal gain.

True faith in our Lord endures until the end (Hebrews 11:13-15), perseveres under trials, and keeps focused on the promises of God's Word. One who believes in Jesus will NEVER be put to shame (1 Peter 2:6).

Application Discussion

Open your session in prayer, and then open your Bibles and read Hebrews 11 as a Flock Group. Memorize and meditate a few minutes on verse 1 as a group.

1. What is faith? In what ways do we exercise faith today?

Note: (1) When you sat down in the chair tonight, did you examine the chair to determine if it was structurally sound and would hold up your weight? Probably not, but you sat down in it, exercising your faith that it would hold you up. (2) In like manner when you turn on the lights in your home, are you exercising faith? What is the source of power? What is the parallel to our faith in Christ and the observable results when we live by faith. (Matthew 5:14-16).

2. What does it take to keep a strong faith and hope in Jesus Christ, so one's faith is kept to the end? What Bible passages/principles are helpful for persevering in your faith?
3. What is a trial you have had or are having right now? What can the Flock Group do to encourage you today regarding this trial (Hebrews. 3:12-13)?
4. Faith without deeds is dead (James 2:14-16). List some Biblical examples of deeds which are produced by faith in Jesus. Which deeds do you desire to produce more of?
5. Specifically write down one thing you would like to do, with God's help, during the next week to actively demonstrate your faith in Jesus? Pray daily that God will help you in this area of your life.