

## Discussion Guide: Hall of Fame of Faith – Part 3

*Let us examine the Scriptures like the Bereans who "received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true." Acts 17:11 (NIV)*

**June 22, 2003:** "Hall of Fame of Faith - Part 3" by Pastor Kimber Kauffman, Senior Pastor College Park Church. Pastor Kauffman continued his series on faith based on Hebrews 11. The key topics were believing God's promises, having poor faith is better than having no faith, and living with hope in our souls. He ended by giving out a homework assignment.

Hebrews 11:13-16 provides great insight to the lives of faith lived by the Old Testament heroes. They believed God and in His promises to them: Abraham in moving, Sarah in birthing a child, Noah in building an arc, and the list goes on. Pastor Kauffman challenged us to put our trust in God's promises. First and foremost, for our salvation, then, for our earthly life. In 2 Corinthians 5:6 the Lord instructs us to remember we are now away from Him and this life needs to be lived for Him, not our own gain. Pastor called it living for "secular nowism" versus living for His kingdom and His will.

G. H. Chesterton wrote "Anything worth doing, is worth doing ... poorly." We were exhorted to persevere in our faith. Even though, we are sinful and often fail, we need to stay at it. Keep going. Don't stop. Get up and try again. Pastor also instructed us to keep encouraging one another every day in our struggle against sin, so we don't develop a heart of unbelief (Hebrews. 3:12-13).

Our hope in the Lord should always be evident. Keep it ever before you. Throw yourself on Him. He is mighty in grace and mercy towards us. And in fact, Hebrews 11 could also be entitled "God's Grace and Mercy in Action" as these heroes of the faith are also known for their sin which is not mentioned at all in this chapter.

Within the next few weeks, Pastor asked us all to complete a homework assignment. Fill in "By faith <your name> ..." with a story on how God has worked in your life as you have lived by faith. Return the stories to the boxes in the front right side of the sanctuary.

### Discussion Questions

1. Who is your favorite hero of faith in Hebrews 11 or Christian history? Why?
2. What is your struggle in building spiritual disciplines for growing in your faith? What are some Biblical principles and passages, which can help you, keep at it, even if done poorly?
3. Having hope in the Lord should continually change our lives. How does this hope in your life affect you? What can you do to encourage others daily in their hope, so they do not become hardened by sin's deceitfulness (read Hebrews 3:12-13)?
4. By next Sunday, fill in "By faith <yourname> ..." and return to the church?

If you need a verse for mediation, use 2 Corinthians 5:7, "We live by faith, not by sight."