

# **The Life of Faith**

## **Hebrews 11**

### **Part 6**

**When God wants to drill a man and thrill a man and skill a man. When God wants to mold a man to play the noblest part; when He yearns with all His heart to create so great and bold a man that all the world shall be amazed, watch His methods, watch His ways! How He ruthlessly perfects whom He royally elects! How He hammers him and hurts him, and with mighty blows converts him into trial shapes of clay which only God**

**understands; while his tortured heart is crying and he lifts beseeching hands! How He bends but never breaks when his good He undertakes; how He uses whom He chooses and with every purpose fuses him; by every act induces him to try His splendor out – God knows what He's about!**

***Author unknown***



# **Matt 13:18-19**

**1<sup>st</sup> group hears but before the can understand Satan/birds/demons steal the seed.**



# **Matt 13:20-21**

**2<sup>nd</sup> group receives the seed – the soil is the heart.**

**Rocky group : He hears – immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no root in himself but endures for a while.**





# **Matt 13:22-23**

**Seed among the thorns:**

**He hears the word but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word and it proves unfruitful.**

# **Matt 13:23**

**As for the seed/gospel/Word on good soil:**

- ~ He hears**
- ~ He understands it**
- ~ He indeed bears fruit and yields 100, 60, 30 fold.**



**John in the Apocalypse says:**

**To him who overcomes...**

**John in 1 John the aged  
Apostle says:**

**This is the victory that over comes the  
world – even our faith**



**Hebrews teaches it's only the faith that endures to the end that is true faith.**

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## **Hebrews 3:14**

**<sup>14</sup>For we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.**

# Hebrews 6:11-12

**<sup>11</sup>And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, <sup>12</sup>so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.**





# Hebrews 10:23-25

**<sup>23</sup>Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup>And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup>not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.**

# Hebrews 10:35-36

**<sup>35</sup>Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.**

**<sup>36</sup>For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.**



# Hebrews 10:38-39

**<sup>38</sup>but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.“ <sup>39</sup>But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.**

# 1 Tim 4:13-16

**<sup>13</sup>Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. <sup>14</sup>Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. <sup>15</sup>Practice these things, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. <sup>16</sup>Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in**

**this, for by so doing you will save both  
yourself and your hearers.**



## **Col 1:28-29**

**<sup>28</sup>Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. <sup>29</sup>For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.**





## 2 Peter 1:3-15

<sup>3</sup>His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, <sup>4</sup>by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. <sup>5</sup>For this very

**reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge,<sup>6</sup> and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness,<sup>7</sup> and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.<sup>8</sup> For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>9</sup> For whoever lacks these**

qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.

<sup>10</sup>Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. <sup>11</sup>For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup>Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though

**you know them and are established in the truth that you have. <sup>13</sup>I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder, <sup>14</sup>since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. <sup>15</sup>And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.**



**The Christian life has not been tried and found wanting – it has been found difficult and left untried.**

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**Don't be lazy – live this life so on THAT DAY you will be glad.**





# Suffering Here Means Glory There

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## Romans 8:18

**<sup>18</sup>For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.**



## **Matt 6:19-20**

**19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup> but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.**

# Are Your Treasures In Heaven? Are They Coming?

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## 1 Tim 6:17-19

<sup>17</sup>As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.

<sup>18</sup>They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, <sup>19</sup>thus storing up treasure for

**themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.**



## **Acts 14:19-23**

**<sup>19</sup>But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. <sup>20</sup>But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city, and on the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe. <sup>21</sup>When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and**

**to Iconium and to Antioch,  
22strengthening the souls of the  
disciples, encouraging them to  
continue in the faith, and saying that  
through many tribulations we must  
enter the kingdom of God. 23And when  
they had appointed elders for them in  
every church, with prayer and fasting  
they committed them to the Lord in  
whom they had believed.**





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**Anything worth  
doing, is worth  
doing....Even Poorly.**



- ~ **Your faith can fail at times**
- ~ **Your faith can stumble.**
- ~ **But you can't give up!**





**“The Scriptures teach that the happiness or blessedness of believers in a future life will be greater or less in proportion to the service of Christ in this life. Those who love little, do little; and those who do little, enjoy less.”**

***Charles Hodges***

**“Rewards are such as what make you leap to think on, and that we should remember with exceeding joy, and never think that it is contrary to the Christian faith to rejoice and be glad for them.”**

*John Bunyan*

**“The whole subject of rewards for the believer is one, I am afraid, rarely thought of by the ordinary Christian, or event the average student of the Scriptures. But it is both a joyous and solemn theme and should serve as a potent incentive for holiness of life.”**

***Wilber Smith***



**Hope is one of the Theological virtues. This means that a continual looking forward to the eternal world is not (a some modern people think) a form of escapism or wishful thinking, but one of the things a Christian is meant to do. It does not mean that we are to leave the present world as it is.....**

**If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next.....**

**The Apostles themselves, who set on foot the conversion of the Roman Empire, the great men who built up the Middle Ages, the English Evangelicals who abolished the Slave Trade, all left their mark on earth, precisely because their minds were occupied with Heaven....**

**It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. Aim at Heaven and you will get Earth “thrown in”. Aim at earth and you will get neither....**

***C. S. Lewis***





**Most of us find it very difficult to want Heaven at all – except insofar as Heaven means meeting again our friends who have died. One reason for this difficulty is that we have not been trained: our whole education tends to fix our minds on this world. Another reason is that when the real want for Heaven is present in us, we do not recognize it...**

**Most people, if they had really learned to look into their own hearts, would know that they do want, and want acutely, something that cannot be had in this world...**

**There are all sorts of things in this world that offer to give it to you, but they never quite keep their promise...**

**The longings which arise in us when we first fall in love, or first think of some foreign country, or first take up some subject that excites us, are longings which no marriage, no travel, no learning, can really satisfy...**

**I am not now speaking of what would ordinarily be called unsuccessful marriages, or holidays, or learned careers. I am speaking of the best possible ones. There was something we grasp at, in that first moment of longing, which fades away in reality. I think everyone knows what I mean. The wife may be a good wife, and the...**

**hotels and scenery may have been excellent, and chemistry may be a very interesting job: but something has evaded us.**

***C. S. Lewis***





**Basic to New Testament ethics is the belief that Christians should live on earth in the light of heaven, should make decisions in the present with their eye on the future, and should avoid behaving here in a way that would jeopardize their hope of glory hereafter...**

**Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up...**

**All the promises that the glorified Christ in his letters to the seven churches holds out to those who “overcome” the world, the flesh, and the devil, relate to a future state (see Rev. 2:7, 10f., 17, 26-28, 3:5 12, 21)...**

**The many passages of this kind in the New Testament make it obvious that one should live in such a way that the ledgers of eternity will declare one rich before God. This is something no old-time Christian would ever doubt.**

*J.I. Packer*



**Does the world around us seek pleasure, profit, and privilege? So do we. We have no readiness or strength to renounce these objectives, for we have recast Christianity into a mold that stresses happiness above holiness, blessings here above blessedness hereafter, health and wealth as God's best gifts, and death, especially early death, not as thankworthy deliverance from the miseries of a sinful world (the view...**

**That the old Anglican Prayer Book expressed), but as the supreme disaster, and a constant challenge to faith in God's goodness...**

**Is our Christianity now out of shape? Yes, it is, and the basic reason is that we have lost the New Testament's two-world perspective that views the next life as more important than this one and understands life here as essentially preparation and training for life hereafter. And we shall continue out of shape till this proper other-worldliness is recovered...**



**Such otherworldliness does not in any way imply a low view of the wonder and glory and richness that life in this world can have. What otherworldliness implies is that you live you're life here, long or short as it may be, seeing everything from the pilgrim perspective immortalized in Bunyan's classic work, and making your decisions in terms of your knowledge of being a traveler on the way home.**

***J.I. Packer***<sup>73</sup>



**We long to see Him; and such desires are the work of the Holy Spirit and are the firstfruits of heaven. But remember that just inside the door there is Christ's Judgment Seat, where He will adjudge our life and apportion our reward. Prepare, my soul, to give an account of thy talents!**

***F. B. Meyer***



**The Judgment Seat is meant for us professing Christians, real and imperfect Christians; and it tells us that there are degrees in that future blessedness proportioned to present faithfulness.**

***Alexander Maclaren***



**There is a day coming that will cure all our mistakes, and show us ourselves, and show our actions in the true light.**

*Matthew Henry*





**The doctrine of final judgment stresses man's accountability and the certainty that justice will finally triumph over all the wrongs which are past and partial of life here and now. The former gives a dignity to the humblest action and the latter brings calmness and assurance to those in the thick of the battle. This doctrine gives meaning to life. The Christian view of judgment means that history moves to a goal. Judgment protects...**

**the idea of the triumph of God and of good. It is unthinkable that the present conflict between good and evil will be disposed of authoritatively, decisively, finally. Judgment means, that in the end, God's will – will be perfectly done.**

***Leon Morris***



# Heb 11:1 – Faith Defined

**Today**

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**Living by faith -  
not by sight**

**Heaven**

**Living by sight in  
God's presence**



**Heb 11:2**

**Faith is What Commends You  
to God.**

# Key to the Faith Life:

- ~ Please God
- ~ Commends you to God but is ridiculed and misunderstood by men.

**Heb 11:3**

**Faith Looks Back**





**Key:** The visible came forth  
from the invisible.

The writer of Hebrews is thinking  
about Genesis. He is about to use 7  
of the people in Genesis to prove the  
life of faith.

**God's incomparable power is such that he can call the universe into being when there is nothing from which it can be fashioned. He simply declared that it was to be, and once it was said – it was done.**



**It's that very same Word of God that the men and women of chapter 11 put their entire lives on the line to believe.**



# Heb 11:4-7

## 3 Righteous Men

~ Able

~ Enoch

~ Noah

# Heb 11:4 - Able

## Worship

### Matt 23:35

<sup>35</sup> so that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of innocent Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar.



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# 1 John 3:12

**<sup>12</sup>We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous.**



**The point of 11:4 is by faith – we believe that God not only sees the value of sacrifice but the hear of the giver.**

# By faith God accepts my sacrifice of worship.

- ~ Though I don't see His smile
- ~ I sacrifice out of my life's work
- ~ Able – flock
- ~ Cain - fields



**In a thoroughly secular society, and because of our preoccupation with material things, it is easy for us to ignore God's existence and it is common for us to overlook God's grace. He is the rewarder of *those who seek him*. He does not merely reveal his existence to us, but proves his generosity. Those who seek him in everyday life can testify to his goodness.**

***Raymond Brown*** <sup>104</sup>



# Heb 11:7 Noah

~ Being warned of God

└─ The Word of God

**About events unseen:**

~ No rain

~ No flood

**In Reverent Fear Built An Arc**



**An example of faith believes the unseen!**

**An example of faith + actions is long term obedience.**

**By faith:**

**~ Pleases God**

**~ Commended by  
God**

**~ Men will mock**

**~ Ridiculed by  
men**



# **God Said It - Noah Did It!!**

**Jesus stressed the importance of obedience as true faith.**

# **Matt 7:24-27**

**24 "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. 26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27**

**And the rain fell, and the floods came,  
and the winds blew and beat against  
that house, and it fell, and great was  
the fall of it."**

**God said it – I believe it – that settles it.**

**Good**

**God said it – that settles it – I believe it.**

**Better**



