

Faith Facts

Heb 11:1-6

INTRODUCTION

- A. “Faith is the victory! Faith is the victory! O glorious victory That overcomes the world.”
 - 1. 1 Jn 5:4.
 - 2. Faith does allow us to overcome the struggles we face in life.
- B. Because faith allows us to overcome, we need to understand faith.
- C. The Hebrew Christians also needed to understand faith.
 - 1. They had suffered many tribulations (10:32-34).
 - 2. They needed to endure (10:36).
 - 3. As part of enduring, they needed to understand that “the just shall live by faith” (10:37).
 - 4. If these Christians were to live by faith, they needed to understand faith.
- D. Faith is:

FACTUAL, v 1

- A. Faith is the substance of things hoped for.
 - 1. “Substance” literally means “foundation.”
 - 2. The idea is that the things in which we hope are firm; they are real.
- B. Faith is the evidence of things not seen.
 - 1. “Evidence” means “conviction.”
 - 2. Faith allows us to be convicted that things we have never seen actually exist.
- C. faith is not a leap in the dark.
 - 1. Many want us to believe that “faith” is just hoping things exist which really don’t.
 - 2. One man even said that faith is “belief without evidence in what is told by one who speaks without knowledge of things without parallel.”
 - 3. True faith is open to examination & rests on facts.
 - a. Lk 1:3-4.
 - 1) “Having had perfect understanding” carries the idea of “investigating everything carefully.”
 - 2) Like investigated the things he had heard about Jesus.
 - b. 2 Pt 1:16.
 - 1) The apostles did not teach myths.
 - 2) They had seen what had happened & they taught facts.
 - 4. The Christian faith rests upon historically verifiable evidence—it has substance & conviction.

FAVORABLE, v 2

- A. The elders received a good testimony through faith.
 - 1. “Elders” means “forefathers” or “ancestors.”
 - 2. “Good testimony” means that God was pleased with their lives.
 - 3. The author discusses many OT characters in this chapter—He even runs out of space &

can't discuss all the "heroes of faith" (v 32).

- B. If we have faith, God will be pleased with our lives.
 - 1. Jesus healed the centurion's servant because of the centurion's faith (Mt 8:13).
 - 2. God will save us if we have faith (Mk 16:16; Eph 2:8).
 - 3. Are we receiving a good testimony because of our faith?

FATHOMABLE, v 3

- A. By faith we understand how the worlds were made:
 - 1. By the word of God.
 - a. Everything which exists was spoken into existence by God.
 - b. Throughout Genesis 1, we find the phrase "God said."
 - 2. The world was made from things invisible.
 - a. This world has not always existed.
 - b. The "word of God" which is invisible brought this world into existence.
- B. God has told us how this world was created & we can accept that through faith.

FULFILLING, v 6

- A. Unless one has faith, he cannot please God. He must believe:
 - 1. That God is.
 - a. Unless one believes that God exists, he isn't going to come to God.
 - b. This person might could go through all the motions, but he isn't going to please God.
 - 2. That God reward those who diligently seek him.
 - a. One cannot merely believe that God exists.
 - b. He must also believe that God is good & blesses those who obey.
- B. When we come to God, we must believe that he exists & that he rewards those who seek his will.
- C. Faith is not optional in Christianity.
 - 1. The apostles had to have faith before they could do miracles (Mk 11:22-23).
 - 2. The work of God is to believe in Jesus (Jn 6:28-29).

CONCLUSION

- A. faith will give us victory as we face life's battles.
- B. But, without faith we cannot have victory.
- C. The faith described in Hebrews 11 caused individuals to act.
- D. Have you acted on your faith?