Hebrews 11:1-7 Inductive Bible Study Notes and Discussion Questions

Title: We must have faith to please God

Discussion Questions

How does this chapter relate to chapter ten?

How does it relate to chapter 12, specifically 12:1?

What, exactly, is faith? How would you define it?

What does “assurance” mean? What are the things which you hope for?

Where does faith come from? What are the possible sources by which you would believe something? When talking about believing people, when might you believe someone and might you disbelieve them? What gives someone credibility?

What does conviction mean? What are the things which we don’t see that as Christians we believe in?

What does verse 2 show pleased God a long time ago? Do you think we please God the same way today?

What is one essential aspect of our faith in God (verse 3)?

Why was Able’s sacrifice better than Cain’s?

What “gifts” are referred to?

How does he still speak to us? How about the other OT characters in this chapter? How do they speak to us? What does this tell us about the purpose of the Bible in recording the life stories of these people? Can we learn anything from this about the importance of our own actions?

What was the world like when Enoch lived? At that time what might the excuses have been for not having faith in God?

What does it mean that he was taken up? What does this show us about God? Are there any lessons we can learn from this?

What do we learn from verse 6? How can our faith grow stronger? What do you think you need to do to follow the principles in this passage on faith?

Cross-References

James 2:14-26 – Faith without works is dead.

Matthew 7:21 – Many will say Lord, Lord.

Definition of Faith

But what is faith and who is it in? Who is the world's faith in? Hebrews 11:1. How about some definitions? Moses, what does the Greek word mean?

See English and Greek definitions.

In English-

Faith- Belief or trust in a higher power. The fundamental idea in Scripture is steadfastness and faithfulness. But note that saving faith is not only belief, because even the demons do that. Hebrews 11:1, Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

In Greek-

FAITH

pistis NT:4102, primarily, "firm persuasion," a conviction based upon hearing (akin to peitho, "to persuade"), is used in the NT always of "faith in God or Christ, or things spiritual."

The main elements in "faith" in its relation to the invisible God, as distinct from "faith" in man, are especially brought out in the use of this noun and the corresponding verb, pisteuo; they are (1) a firm conviction, producing a full acknowledgement of God's revelation or truth, e. g., 2 Thess 2:11-12; (2) a personal surrender to Him, John 1:12; (3) a conduct inspired by such surrender, 2 Cor 5:7. Prominence is given to one or other of these elements according to the context. All this stands in contrast to belief in its purely natural exercise, which consists of an opinion held in good "faith" without necessary reference to its proof. The object of Abraham's "faith" was not God's promise (that was the occasion of its exercise); his "faith" rested on God Himself, Rom 4:17,20-21.
So faith is a “firm conviction”, being “completely persuaded” being “assured”, “trust”, etc. Do each of you have a firm conviction that God is true and real? Are you completely persuaded that what He revealed about Himself in the Bible is true? Do you trust Him? Do you believe His promises? Do you believe that He is the Creator?

Quote: An eccentric philosopher of New England in the last century, Henry David Thoreau said, "If I seem to walk out of step with others, it is because I am listening to another drum beat." And that is what faith is like. It is like we are walking to the beat of a different drum.

**Teaching Points**

1. What is faith?
2. Able
3. Enoch
4. What do people place faith in?
5. Faith in action. Can you give extra-biblical examples of believers who have demonstrated great faith in God through their actions?
6. Actions that show lack of faith. What kind of common failings do we see of believers that demonstrate a lack of faith in God?
7. Ways we can grow in faith?
8. Ways to begin applying biblical faith

**Application**: What can you do in the coming week to increase your faith? Do you need to take any leaps of faith?