Bloomington, IN March 24, 2019

9:30 Sunday Bible Study

Faces of Faith

*Known Faith*

Introduction: The theme that I have chosen for us in this meeting this week is *Faces of Faith*. The word faces is two-fold, one the word face represents various people of faith – so we are going to be looking at the faith of some 21 people Lord willing this week. But the word faces is also defined as an aspect of faith or a facet of faith or an attribute of faith – so we are also going to be looking at these Bible characters to learn something important about their faith so we can increase our own faith.

Hebrews 11 is a chapter that highlights the importance of faith.

Without faith it is impossible to do what? (verse 6) please God.

Slide There are two things that must be true if we are going to come please God

#1 Click We must believe that He is!

#2 Click We must believe that He is a Rewarder of those who diligently seek Him

Chapter 11 rolls from one Biblical story to another Biblical story of men and women of great faith.

Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, the Israelites, Rahab

Read Hebrews 12:1-2

We are Lord Willing, we are going to spend 5 days together in our Bibles examining the faith of the great cloud of witnesses that surround us within the Scriptures. (12:1)

* America is increasingly becoming a country of unbelief. We must toughen resolve to not be shaken in our faith. And, we need to set before our children these wonderful heroes of faith.
* These men and women are called witnesses (verse 1) because the strength and genuineness of their faith is laid recorded for us.
* We are going to look at Bible character after Bible character to see and identify the great faces, attributes, characteristics, elements or facets of their faith.
* Slide: Facets of Faith
* You will notice early on in our study how these aspects of faith are interwoven with one another so be looking for them and thinking with me over the next few days.

I. Slide Faith Defined

A. Hebrews 11:1 – suggest to you, you will spend perhaps a lifetime investigating the depth

of this one verse.

Click 1. Faith is… very personal. It is your faith, II Peter 1:5 “add to your faith…”

a. It is your belief in God, your conviction upon which you stand, it is your

trust in God. Your faith is not my faith.

Click 2. Faith is… The substance of things hoped for

a. Faith gives reality to things that we hope for.

b. We see physical things but there is a spiritual realm that cannot be seen.

Click 3. Faith is… The evidence of things not seen

a. Faith gives proof to what cannot be physically seen.

b. Think about your friends. You don’t drink, you don’t cuss, you don’t fool

around, you don’t steal, you don’t lie, you don’t gamble, you don’t etc.

c. Why? I believe in God and His Word. Your actions are the very proof they

need to see God and the unseen.

d. And so the lives of these great men and women of faith give evidence of

God as they faithfully served Him in their lives..

II. The Cloud of Witnesses – *A Known Faith*

* Slide May I suggest to you that *A Known Faith* is an Obedient Faith
* To make this point let’s look at the faith of Abraham

A. **Abraham**

1. Hebrews 11:8

a. Click God said to Abraham go and Abraham OBEYED. Faith Obeys

1) How much better our life will be as a child of God if you and I will

simply make up our mind to obey God.

2) To trust God and practice the Word of God.

b. Children’s song – “Obedience is the only way to show that we believe,

doing exactly as the Lord commands doing it faithfully.”

2. Click Hebrews 11:9-10

a. Abraham waited on God – (verse 10)

Three promises God made to Abraham?

1) God promised Abraham a nation, a land, and that all the nations of

the world would be blessed through his Seed (Christ)

2) Abraham never saw the nation, never saw his family receive the

promised land, never saw the promise at its grandest fulfilment in

Jesus the Christ.

3) How could Abraham wait for the city? (verse 10)? Faith!

a) Within his mind, he could see what could not physically be

seen.

b) “we walk by faith and not by sight” – 2 Corinthians 5:7

3.Click Hebrews 11:13-16 – *A Known Faith* (14) “declare plainly”

4.Click Hebrews 11:17-19

a. How could Abraham raise his knife to kill the very son that God told him

would fulfil the promises He had made to Abraham? FAITH

b. Obedient faith, trusting faith

c. Abraham trusted God so much that he knew if he killed Isaac God was able

to bring him back to life.

d. Genesis 22:12 God said to Abraham “now I know that you fear God”

1) Abraham’s faith was known.

e. Do you have this kind of faith?

1) May I suggest to you, you must, because when you die you are

counting on God to bring your dead body out of the grave and

change it in the twinkling of an eye.

f. The great cloud of witnesses were so **assured** of the promises of God they

were **persuaded** of them, **embraced** them (verse 13) and confessed that

they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth”

B. **Abel**

1. Hebrews 11:4

a. What words in this verse describe Abel’s faith?

1. “a more excellent sacrifice”

2. “righteous”

b. Faith is active, faith is obedient.

c. I John 3:12 tells us that Cain’s works were evil and Abel’s works were

righteous.

d. Click Genesis 4:4 says Abel brought the firstborn of his flock and the fat of

his flock.

1) Abel’s offering to God was the very best he had.

2) If you look at Cain’s offering there are no descriptive words used to

describe the fruit of the ground which Cain brought before God.

3) Abel brought his best, Cain did not. (verse 3)

4) God respected Abel and his offering, but the Lord did not respect

Cain and his offering.

2. Click A Known faith is a faith that will give one’s best to God.

a. “Why do you dress up when you come to worship?” Is there a dress code?

1) No, worthy of our imitation is Abel’s attitude of giving His best.

2) Is there a difference between a Sunday morning and a Sunday

night or Wednesday night. Worship - Something to think about.

b. “Why do you not stay out late on Saturday night?”

1) To give our best in worship to God on the 1st day of the week. c. “Why do you give a liberal gift from what you have prospered?

1) To give your best gift to the Lord.

3. Is Abel’s faith worthy of our imitation? Yes.

Conclusion:

* I John 5:4-5 - It is our faith that will overcome this world
* What a Known Faith it will be!
* In our worship hour we are going to see how our faith is to be *A Righteous Faith*