

June 14, 2020 Sermon Follow-up

Hebrews 10:39:1-13 – Hebrews Snapshot—part 2: “By Faith”

Sermon Recap: Hebrews 10:39–11:13

There is a lens that lets you see through worldly smoke screens. Hebrews 10:39 tells us what that lens is: faith. Hebrews 11 explains the lens of faith.

Faith is assurance which means under stability in Greek: faith is not a feeling it is a foundation (11:1) Faith is in our hope. And hope is a person (God) who is the true foundation of the world.

Through the lens of faith, we see Jesus beyond what we see. OT men and women had faith in God's promises in order to see Jesus beyond what they saw.

- Able saw Jesus beyond his offerings and sacrifice (v.4)
- Noah saw Jesus beyond his circumstances (v.7)
- Abraham saw Jesus beyond his comfort (v.8-10)
- Sarah saw Jesus beyond her weakness (v.11)

We need to be able to see Jesus beyond what is right in front of ourselves and the circumstances of this life. Faith makes us determined to build God's Kingdom here and now, even as we wait for it there and then. The combination of determination without despair is what the lens of faith and seeing Jesus beyond what we see is all about.

Jesus is the founder and perfecter of our faith. He gave up comfort in heaven to be born into poverty and gave his entire life as an offering so that through faith in him we might have a sure and certain hope of life beyond this life.

Faith is having hope and confidence in God's promises beyond our offerings, circumstances, comfort, and weaknesses. What in your life do you need to see Jesus beyond?

Application Questions:

Hebrews 11 helps connect the dots to several of our E100 stories from the Old Testament that show individuals of faith in the Old Testament trusting in, waiting for, and fulfillment of God's promises. Hebrews 11:1 states, "**Faith** is the **assurance** of things **hoped** for, the conviction of things not seen." Consider these synonyms for the words in bold.

Faith — trust

Assurance —under stability, certainty

Hope— verb: waiting for God to fulfill His promises

noun: the One God promised to send in the person of Jesus

1. Read through Hebrews 11 substituting "trusting God" every time you come to the word "faith".
2. Are you looking at our current reality through the lens of faith in God's promises? If yes, how is it affecting you? If not, what lens are you looking through?
3. The people mentioned for their faith in Hebrews 11 accompanied their trust in God's promises with action. Is trusting God's promises through the lens of faith calling you to specific action?
4. How could you explain “hope” to someone who does not know Jesus in 3 minutes or less? (Consider what you learned in Gospel Conversations or attending the next one if you haven't)