

November 17, 2019

Hebrews 11:1-6

Hebrews; The God Who Speaks
“What is Faith?”

INTRODUCTION

1. WHAT FAITH IS
2. FAITH THAT PLEASES
3. FAITH’S OBJECT
4. WHAT THEN DO WE KNOW?

For discussion in small groups and personal reflection:

1. What is faith? Read Hebrews 11:1.
2. There are four words that are used in different translations to describe what faith is and does. They are: Assurance, Conviction, Being sure, Certain, Substance, and Evidence. What do each of these say that faith is?
3. Read Ephesians 2:4-6. Notice the words rendered in the past tense; "Saved" "Raised" and "Seated." What does faith have to do with these being spoken of as having already happened?
4. What normally needs to happen before we say that we "know" a particular thing to be true or real? How is saying that you "know" that the chair you're sitting in will support your weight and saying that you "know" that you have eternal life the same? How are they different? What role does faith play in each statement?
5. Read Hebrews 11:2. What does faith do so that it pleases God? How did the "people of old" receive their commendation from God?
6. The Chinese evangelist Watchman Nee wrote this . . . *"Faith is always meeting a mountain, a mountain of evidence that seems to contradict God's Word, a mountain of apparent contradiction in the realm of tangible fact ... and either faith or the mountain has to go. They cannot both stand."* What does he mean? Do you agree? Disagree? Why?
7. In what way are the conclusions about the origins of our universe from science and religion both dependent upon faith?
8. What then are the implications of the teaching about faith from Hebrews for our daily life?