

Hebrews

By Chantel Bink

I prayed a lot about what to write for the book of Hebrews—there is a lot of good information in there—but I always came back to the same thing: **The beginning. Not the beginning of the book but the beginning of it all. None of the stuff in the whole book matters if you don't start with faith.**

When I talked to the 3-4-5 YF group about faith it occurred to me (in the middle of the lesson) that it is one of those huge concepts that adult Christians often toss about carelessly—it does make us sound like we've got it all together—but rarely grasp the full concept of.

“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see,” according to Hebrews 11:1. The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines it as “3. complete trust” (2004). **Complete trust. Do you have complete trust in God? With EVERYTHING? I admit I struggle with this at times. I think we all do to some degree at some point. I do tend to want to take control more often than I care to admit; but Hebrews tells us, “...without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him” (11:6). I do believe He exists with all my heart and I've witnessed the blessings given to those who seek Him here on earth, I can't even fathom what He has in store for us in Heaven. I guess I am on my way to complete faith...someday.**

It doesn't stop there, though. **Hebrews follows this definition of faith with examples of faith. The kind of faith God expects of us. We are reminded of Abel who “offered” good sacrifices, Noah who “built an ark” and “condemned the world,” Abraham who “obeyed and went” and “offered Isaac as a sacrifice,”**



Jacob “blessed and worshipped,” Moses “chose to be mistreated,” and Rahab “welcomed the spies” (11:4-31). **Notice a pattern? The 3-4-5 group did. It is, in the words of Luke Greene, that “they all had verbs” in common. Action words. Action. Faith must be followed by and expressed through action. Once we have faith, we have to act on it.**

This is often easier said than done. Satan has a way of twisting and niggling and telling us we aren't capable, don't have time, don't have money, or a hundred thousand other excuses. And, let's be honest, nowhere in faith's definition in the Bible or the dictionary does it imply it is easy, fun, or struggle-free. The ancients didn't have it easy either, they were “tortured,” “faced jeers and flogging,” “put in prison,” “stoned,” and killed (11:35-37). They saw the reward ahead of them, though, the city God prepared for them...and us. Faith's reward is much greater than the trials we endure.



So, I guess the questions we should ask ourselves are: Do I have faith? How am I putting my faith into action? How am I showing my family, friends, church, and the world my faith in the Almighty Creator? Hebrews is one of those books that is chock full of important stuff and it is an excellent book to study, but it all starts with faith.

“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down on the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.” Hebrews 12:2-3

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