ARE YOU A WORLD CHANGER?
Hebrews 11

Are you a thermostat or are you a thermometer? A thermometer is affected by its surroundings. Depending upon the temperature, the mercury in the thermometer goes up or down. In contrast, a thermostat influences its surroundings. It controls the heat or coldness of its environment. With that in mind, are you a thermometer or a thermostat? Are you changing culture or is culture changing you?

How can you be a world changer? You do it through faith.

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES

1. **Faith does things.** In Hebrews 11, so many verses speak of how faith worked. Abel offered a sacrifice. Noah prepared an ark. Abraham obeyed and later even offered up Isaac. It comes down to this: a faith with no works is a faith that does not work. Faith is getting out there and running the race.

2. **Faith grows stronger through testing.** James 1 in the Phillips translation says, "When all kinds of trials and temptations crowd into your lives my brothers, don't resent them as intruders, but welcome them as friends! Realize that they come to test your faith and to produce in you the quality of endurance." God will test your faith for your own good.

3. **What is faith?** The New Living Translation puts it this way: "What is faith? It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see." Faith sees invisible things. Faith sees what could be.

4. **Faith takes action.** Faith doesn't just talk about it. It doesn't live in theory. Faith lives in the world of activity. It does things. Faith takes risks. It says, "Let's just see what the Lord will do." If you sit around in inactivity nothing is going to happen.

5. **Faith can make the difference between something happening and not happening.** Faith can make the difference between receiving and not receiving what God has for us. Some people say, "That would never happen for me. God would never do that." Someone else says, "I will pray for that. I will ask the Lord." That is where faith comes in.

6. **Our faith must be in God.** We are not talking about faith as some kind of a power. As some would say, "Just have faith. Just say it. Speak it. It will happen." No. We are not saying that at all. Hebrews 11:3 says, "By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God (NKJV). So the object of our faith is God Almighty. Jesus said in Mark 11:22, "Have faith in God" (NKJV).

7. **Living by faith has a price.** Faith is the willingness to obey God regardless of the circumstances. Sometimes when you decide to walk with Jesus as you ought to as a Christian, not everyone likes it. Friction may come from home or from a coworker. Sometimes other Christians may drag you down. There will be opposition to people who step out in faith as seen with Abel, who is the first person listed in Hebrews 11. He offered a good offering to God, but was killed by his brother, Cain.

RELEVANT REMINDERS

- Stepping out in faith is not always the easiest thing to do.
- The people listed in Hebrews 11 were not perfect. They failed often. They are not heroes because they were great. They were heroes because they had faith in a great God.
- This faith that we are to have is not elitist. It is not only for saints enshrined in stained glass or people on pedestals. It is for all of us.
- When your faith is being tested, God won't give you more than you can handle. If God gave it to you, you can handle it. He will give you what you are ready for.

APPLICABLE ACTIONS

What kind of legacy are you going to leave? Are you a world changer? Or is the world changing you? Will people look back and say that you were a thermostat or were you a thermometer. Abel is remembered as a hero of the faith. Cain is remembered as the first murderer. Abel pleased God and God rewarded Abel. Cain gained the world and lost his soul. Abel lost his life but gained the approval of God. Live your life well and be a world changer.