**Holiness and Faith**

**Hebrews 11:1 (ESV)**Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

**Hebrews 11:2 (ESV)**For by it the people of old received their commendation.

**Hebrews 11:3 (ESV)**By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

**Hebrews 11:6 (ESV)**And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him.

**Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV)**For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

**Galatians 2:20 (ESV)**I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

**Romans 14:23 (ESV)**For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.

A holy life is essentially an obedient life. Genuine obedience to God requires faith.

“Obedience to the revealed will of God is often just as much a step of faith as claiming a promise from God.” - Jerry Bridges

Holy people live **by faith**.

1. By faith, we **worship** God.

**Hebrews 11:4 (ESV)**By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.

1. By faith, we **please** God.

**Hebrews 11:5 (ESV)**By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God.

**Hebrews 11:6 (ESV)**And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him.

1. By faith, we **fear** God.

**Hebrews 11:7 (ESV)**By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

1. By faith, we **look** to God.

**Hebrews 11:8 (ESV)**By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

**Hebrews 11:9 (ESV)**By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise.

**Hebrews 11:10 (ESV)**For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

1. By faith, we **wait** on God.

**Hebrews 11:11 (ESV)**By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered Him faithful who had promised.

**Hebrews 11:12 (ESV)**Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

1. By faith, we **trust** God.

**Hebrews 11:17 (ESV)**By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son,

**Hebrews 11:18 (ESV)**

of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.”

**Hebrews 11:19 (ESV)**He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

1. By faith, we **hope** in God.

**Hebrews 11:20 (ESV)**By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau.

**Hebrews 11:21 (ESV)**By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff.

**Hebrews 11:22 (ESV)**By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.

1. By faith, we **choose** God.

**Hebrews 11:23 (ESV)**By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king’s edict.

**Hebrews 11:24 (ESV)**By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter,

**Hebrews 11:25 (ESV)**choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.

**Hebrews 11:26 (ESV)**He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.

1. By faith, we **depend** on God.

**Hebrews 11:29 (ESV)**By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned.

**Hebrews 11:30 (ESV)**By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days.

1. By faith, we **turn** to God.

**Hebrews 11:31 (ESV)**By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

When God measures us, He measures our faith.

**Discussion Questions**

1. According to Ephesians 2:8-9, what part does faith play in entering the Christian life? According to Galatians 2:20 and Hebrews 11:6, what part does faith play in living the Christian life.
2. What are some reasons that Noah had to have faith in order to build the ark?
3. How did Abraham and Sarah have to exercise faith in God? How did Rahab show faith in God?
4. In our study, our pastor talked about “surrendering our Isaacs,” by sacrificing something precious because God commands us. Our pastor also talked about “being an Isaac,” by following when someone in spiritual leadership over us takes us in a direction we may not understand. What times in your life has God asked you to “surrender your Isaac” or “be an Isaac”?
5. Hebrews 11:6 says, “Without faith it is impossible to please God.” What does that verse mean to you?
6. What are some areas of your life where God is challenging you to live by faith?