

Hebrews #28
Hebrews 11:8-16
Faith on its Feet
16092-A November 27, 2016

- I. **Luke 7:1-10.** Jesus was very sparing in his praise for people. He loved them, but didn't expect a lot. Yet, there is one outstanding and surprising example of faith that He "marveled at." Notice the faith of this centurion:
- A. *He trusted Jesus' authority, expressed by the Lord's Word, before he saw the results*
 - A.1. Just say the Word, Lord. I understand authority. Yours, not mine...
 - B. *Note that the Word, Authority and Person of God are essentially identical.*
 - B.1. *The Gospel is the Power of God for Salvation (Rom.1:16-17)*
 - B.2. *The Words I speak are Spirit and are Life (John 6:63)*
 - C. *Hebrews says Faith in the Bible is always faith in Jesus Christ, even in the Old Covenant.*
- II. **This fits perfectly with Hebrews 11:1-7. 3 things to remember about Faith**
- A. It is a willingness to know based on hearing instead of seeing. 1
 - A.1. Jesus emphasized this; let him who has ears to hear (Lk.8:8)
 - A.2. To take someone else's word for something and treat that as knowledge of reality.
 - A.3. All people have faith and live by faith. The difference is whose word they trust.
 - B. It is a willingness to start with God instead of us. 6 (Gen.1:1)
 - B.1. The object of real faith is always God Himself in concrete reality.
 - B.2. Our culture is blind because it starts with human thinking (fallen epistemology) instead of assuming God's existence.
 - C. It is a way of interpreting and living in Reality. 4-8
 - C.1. Abel, Enoch, Noah all lived out what they really knew about God
 - C.2. *Real faith is not theoretical, but practical. It changes you.*
- III. **Abraham heard the Lord and followed Him (Jn.10:27). Hebrews 11:8-16. Elements of Faith**
- A. **It Starts With a Call and a Decision. 8**
 - A.1. God's Personal Call precedes our Personal faith. 8-9 (Gen.12:1-4)
 - A.1.a) Abraham was not seeking God when God called him. **Josh.24:1-5**
 - (A.1.a.1) In this Joshua passage God says "I" 8 times!
 - (A.1.a.2) Your faith started with God's call on your life through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. (Rom.1:16-17; Eph.2:8-10)
 - A.2. Our Personal Decision follows His Call. Abraham obeyed (hupokuou = hyper-hear)
 - A.2.a) This is a real decision that stems from real faith. It is your faith and your decision, even though God is the one who gives it to you. (Eph.2:8-10)
 - A.2.b) It is inevitable that God's Word accomplishes what He decides. Isa.55:8-11
 - B. **It Thrives on God's Word. The Promise. 4 times here, 9(2), 11, 13**
 - B.1. God's promise, His Word, is the spiritual nourishment for our relationship with Him.
 - B.2. Keep your mind on what God says about this age and the future.
 - C. **It Grows in a Hostile Environment. 13**
 - C.1. We become expats (strangers/exiles) in a world we will someday own. Matt.5:1-12 (5, the gentle will inherit the earth).
 - C.2. James 1:2-4. The purifying effect of stress on our faith.
 - D. **It Embraces the Temporary Nature of this Age. 9, 10, 13. (2 Cor.4:16-5:10)**
 - D.1. They lived in TENTS and found conTENTment.
 - D.1.a) Living in tents for 3 generations.
 - D.2. They succeeded without achieving everything. 13-16 (Died in Faith)
 - D.2.a) Living their entire life in fellowship with God, yet not receiving the fulfillment.
 - D.2.b) Can we accomplish God's will without getting what we want? Yes.

- E. **It Longs for the Ultimate Fulfillment. 4 metaphors**
 - E.1. The Inheritance that is coming. 8
 - E.2. The City with foundations. 10
 - E.3. The Homeland with permanence 14
 - E.4. The Country that is Better. 16. Heavenly = in the future and spirit realm
 - E.5. *Genuine faith is always a little homesick, longing for the real life.*
 - E.6. *Genuine faith always has prayers yet unanswered in this age, looking past the evil toward the glory.*
- IV. **How can we hurt our own faith? 5 ways...**
 - A. **By forgetting who made the first call. (Jn.15:16).**
 - A.1. Forgetting that He called us first. This puts all the weight of salvation on us and it is unbiblical and unbearable. (Matt.11:25-30)
 - A.2. Faith in our faithfulness rather than in His produces arrogance, guilt, legalism.
 - B. **By refusing to move forward. Abraham went out not knowing... (Josh.1:8-9)**
 - B.1. *We may not always know where we are going, but we do know who we are following.*
 - B.2. *He is ahead of us on every road we travel! With us always to the end Matt.28:20*
 - C. **By trusting the wrong Word/Promise. (Your own, the world's). (Jn.1:1-5, 14)**
 - C.1. We all take somebody's word for something. In ultimate reality do you take your word (autonomy) over God's Word?
 - D. **By avoiding stress at all costs. (Always doing the easiest thing) (Jas.1:2-4)**
 - D.1. Because sin is always presented as the easy way out of whatever you're facing. Temptation is always to do under pressure what God told you not to do.
 - E. **By expecting too much out of our tent. 2 Cor.4:16-5:10**
 - E.1. Over-expecting from this age will undermine your faith and your knowledge of God.
 - E.2. Idolizing something, anything, in this age will weaken your spiritual life. Temporary.
- V. **Let the Lord become All because the Word made Flesh entered the Stress of our world, gave up His tent, and took complete authority over all of life.**