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FAITH

What Are You Hoping For?



Street Level Christianity SERIES

PAUL DAVID TRIPP

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Introduction to Faith: What Are You Hoping For?

I think we often misunderstand the purpose of Hebrews 11. It is frequently referred to as a list of legends or a hall of fame for faithful saints. But it is so much more.

When you start to read this little chapter, you realize the great figures of the Bible were just like you and me. They were weak and had messy lives. They often felt like the call of God was too big for them. In fact, they often felt unqualified for the call of God. But, they held onto and lived by faith in the one true hero: the Lord Almighty. In the nine sessions of this study, you will see that God accomplishes great things through those who have faith. Sessions cover:

- The Object of Faith
- The Definition of Faith
- Authentic Faith
- Faith That Changes You
- Faith and the Irrationality of Life
- Faith-Based Value
- Redeeming Faith
- The Freedom of Faith
- Faithful Dissatisfaction

My prayer is that your faith in Jesus Christ will be encouraged and you will be emboldened to live by it every single day. We serve an awesome, sovereign God who loves us dearly; there is no greater act than to live for Him by faith.

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The entire Hub Team



Hebrews 11:1-3

THE OBJECT OF FAITH

Session 01

01

Christians often describe themselves as “people of faith” or “believers.” But, simply having faith is not unique. Everyone in the world has faith: everyone wants to be sure, is motivated by hope, and holds to a set of convictions. The question of real importance is, “What have you put your faith in?”

The way you answer that question will shape the way you view the world and live in it. Faith is central to everyone, and the object of your faith is what defines your life.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. 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 11:1-3 (ESV)

“Christians are not different because they live by faith, Christians are different because of the object of their faith.”

Questions

1. Take a moment to briefly describe your faith. Is it strong? Do you feel weak? Why? What are you hoping God will do with your faith through these nine sessions?

2. We are all concerned about the truth, we want to be sure we are living for something true. What have you put your assurance in? What, when questioned, causes you to run to stress or anger?

“Everyone hooks their hope to something.”

3. We are all motivated by hope, our needs, and expectations that cause us to put our faith in material things and circumstances instead of God.
- a. What are you telling yourself you need most right now?

 - b. What actions or circumstances will deliver what you think you need?

 - c. What object (person or thing) will give you what you think you need?
4. Review your answers in question 3. What are you putting your faith in? Is your faith sure?

5. We all hold convictions, strong beliefs in what people “should do.” Do you believe there is a way people should live? What do you do when they don’t? Be specific.

“If you can understand faith, you can understand the life God has called you to.”

Street-Level Truth

One of the most important things we should talk about is what we have placed our faith in. It will affect your entire life and the life hereafter.

Prayer

Lord, we pray as we work through Hebrews 11 we would come to understand what it really means to live by faith. We pray you would reveal to us what true faith and truly faithful living look like in our everyday lives. Amen.

Memory verse

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 11:3 (ESV)