

Hebrews 11:1-16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² For by it the people of old received their commendation. ³ 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.

⁴ 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. ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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. ⁷ 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.

⁸ 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. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. ¹¹ By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² 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.

¹³ These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ¹⁴ For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

Discussion Questions

Do you believe there is a conflict between faith and science? Explain your answer?

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Bible Study Questions

1. Describe the author’s definition of faith. How does it compare with other forms of knowledge?

2. How does the creation of the universe that we know by faith compare with what you know by other means? Is there any other way to know the origin of the universe?

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Bible Study Questions continued

3. What was it about Abel's sacrifice that made it acceptable to God?

4. How does the author know that Enoch was a man of faith? What does that tell us about what it takes to please God?

5. Describe the faith of Noah, Abraham, and Sarah. Of these three, who do you resonate with the most and why?

6. From each of the accounts in verses 1-12, list how the saints were rewarded for their faith.

7. According to the author of Hebrews, did these people of faith receive what they were believing that God would give them? What is the city that author mentions?

8. In what area of your life are you in need of faith? What touched you most about this lesson? How do you want to respond?
