

Introduction:

1. It is something that is found in every case. There is no exception.
 - a. Each time “faith” is mentioned there is something that is mentioned along with it.
 - b. You probably already know what it is that is found along with faith. But, if not, you will learn!
2. Our study time will find us in that great chapter that is sometimes called “the honor roll of faith.”
 - a. Hebrews chapter eleven gives us 18 specific examples of faith.
 - b. You are familiar with the names in Hebrews 11—Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Rahab, etc.
 - c. Every time faith is mentioned with these names, something else is mentioned along with it.
 - d. Do you know what is mentioned—and why? But first, we need to see something else...

The Lesson:**I. How does the chapter fit in the book?**

- A. The book is written to Jewish Christians--*Hebrews*. These were native-born (to Palestine) Jews as opposed to the foreign-born Jews—*Grecians*, who were found throughout the Empire.
 1. These Jewish Christians were undergoing intense persecution from other Jews, so much so, that many lost their livelihood and even their lives for Christ, Hebrews 10:32-34.
 2. The persecution tempted some of them to turn away from Christ and to go back to following the Old Law—and thus avoid the persecution, Hebrews 10:35-39.
 3. Thus, the book of Hebrews contains numerous warnings not to turn back and not to neglect their salvation, Hebrews 2:1-3; 4:1; 6:4-6.
 4. The book also includes encouragement to carry on in the faith, Hebrews 3:14; 10:23-25.
- B. Chapter 11 is a chapter that was written to encourage those who were suffering, who were being tempted, and who needed help—lest they give up on Christ. It gives at least 18 examples of those who endured and pleased God by their faith.
 1. Many of these suffered in horrible ways, but still endured. These are role models.
 2. They are not only role models, they are also encouragers who cheer Christians on to the finish line. They have completed the race and urge us to do the same, Hebrews 12:1-2.
 3. This chapter sits in this book to encourage those who might be struggling in their faith. It was designed to help those Jewish Christians who were undergoing terrible persecution. And, to the degree that we might struggle in our faith, it serves to help us and give us the encouragement we need to carry on. “Don’t give up!” is the message.

II. What is found along with faith?

- A. Remember, we said that each time “faith” is found there is something mentioned along with it.
 1. What is it? Of course there are names mentioned along with it. But that’s not it.
 2. You may say “some blessing is found” with it. That’s true, but not what we are looking for.

3. Without exception, every time faith is found an action word is found along with it. What part of speech is identified as an action word? The verb is the action word.

B. Let's see the verbs that are used with faith. (Verbs are in *Italics*.)

1. (v. 3) "By faith Abel...*offered* to God..."
2. (v. 5) "By faith Enoch...*pleased* God..." (See Genesis 5:24.)
3. (v. 7) "By faith Noah...*prepared* an ark..."
4. (v. 8) "By faith Abraham...*obeyed* by going..."
5. (v. 11) "By faith Sarah...*considered* Him faithful..."
6. (v. 21) "By faith Jacob...*blessed* each of his sons ..."
7. (v. 22) "By faith Joseph...*made mention* of the exodus..."
8. (v. 23) "By faith Moses...*was hidden* by his parents..."
9. (v. 24) "By faith Moses...*refused* to be called..."
10. (v. 29) "By faith they...*passed through* the Red Sea..." (A reference to Israel)
11. (v. 30) "By faith the walls of Jericho fell...*encircled*..." (A reference to Joshua, et al)
12. (v. 31) "By faith Rahab...*welcomed* the spies..."
13. (v. 32) "...Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David and Samuel and the prophets...by faith..." Various exploits of these and others are noted in verses 33-38. All actions that were done by faith.

C. In every case there is an action word found along with their faith.

1. Why? Because saving faith always acts.
2. It was not that these people just believed in God. It was that their faith called upon them to act. It was their actions based on their belief that made the difference in their lives.

III. **Action makes the difference in your life also.**

A. Do you have faith? Then what is your verb going to be?

1. What word(s) goes next to your name? What makes the difference in your life? What sets you apart from other people? What action will save your soul?
2. Will it be the same word used with Abel? With Enoch or Noah? Which words fit you?

B. We must not say, "Well, I just believe in God; that's all." We must act on our faith.

Conclusion:

1. "Got faith? Then act!" Crisis moments will come into your life. You will be called upon to show faith. The point of this chapter is that you can do it. These did it. So can you.
2. Or maybe it's not a crisis moment. Maybe it's the big picture, the long haul, the overall belief and action that governs your life, like with Abraham—long term faith and faithfulness. You can do it.
3. We close with Hebrews 11:6. You can please God. And when you believe that He rewards faith that is put into action, you will please Him. The end.