

**"The Walk of Faith"**

**Part 3**

**Hebrews 11:1-40**

**Introduction:** This is our 3<sup>rd</sup> study in Hebrews 11 and we are currently looking at the subject of FAITH which is the theme of this entire chapter. This chapter came about after a statement which the writer made at the end of chapter 10.

**Hebrews 10:38**

<sup>38</sup> *Now the just shall live by faith:* *but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.*

The writer desires to help these Hebrew believers to walk by faith after they have been saved by faith. He desires for them to trust God in the midst of all they are facing. He desires that they learn to trust in God's power, provisions, and His promises. So here in chapter 11 the writer begins by defining faith.

**Notice Hebrews 11:1**

The writer makes 2 important points concerning faith in this verse:

1. Faith is the foundation on which the believer stands as he or she waits for the promises of God to be fulfilled.
2. Faith is the visible evidence of things hoped for.

The writer then moved on to help his readers see the personal benefits of faith.

**Notice Hebrews 11:2**

By the faith the Old Testament saints received obtained a good report. The idea here is that by faith the elders had a witness born unto them. God was pleased by their walk of faith and He therefore made it known to them as they exercised their faith.

This thought was something the Hebrew believers should have grasp onto. They needed encouragement in the face of the persecution they were facing. The idea here is that if they would live by faith then they too would see the hand of God at work within their lives.

When God's people begin to live by faith then God begins to open doors, strengthen the believer, exercise His power, move obstacles, give peace, give boldness, and the list goes on and on. The point is that faith causes the wheels of heaven to begin to turn.

This now brings us to where we are tonight.

## I. The Examples of Faith

### Part 1

#### Notice Hebrews 11:3

This verse is closely connected to verses 1 and 2. The writer has placed this here to help his readers to see that FAITH is already part of their lives. The writer is helping his readers see the value of faith. Now before we get into this verse I want to refresh your memory with something which we touched upon last week.

Last week we looked at the words of pink concerning faith and we need to see his words again.

*"Two men stand on the deck of a ship gazing toward the far horizon: the one sees nothing, the other describes the details of a distant steamer. The former has only his unaided eyesight, the latter is using a telescope! Now just as the powerful telescope brings home to the eye an object beyond the range of natural vision, so faith gives reality to the heart of things outside the range of our physical senses. Faith sets Divine things before the soul in all light and power of demonstration, and thus provides inward conviction of their existence."*

Faith is like a telescope for it brings that which is far into the future and is unable to be seen with the natural eye, into view for the heart and soul to see. Now let us notice the verse again.

#### Notice Hebrews 11:3

The first 2 words help us to see the writer sees faith as a means of viewing that which is not visible to the natural eye. It is THROUGH FAITH just as "through the telescope" that we are able to see with the heart that which we cannot see with the natural eye. It is by faith that the spiritual world is revealed to you and me.

#### John 11:40

<sup>40</sup> *Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldst see the glory of God?*

The word "worlds" here speaks of "ages". It does not mean that there are several "worlds". Let me show you how John Gill describes the "worlds" spoken of here.

*"The celestial world, with its inhabitants, the angels; the starry world, with all that is in them, the sun, moon, stars, and fowls of the air; the terrestrial world, with all upon it, man, beasts etc; and the watery world, the sea, and all that is therein."*

We are told in this verse that the "worlds" were "framed". This means they were arranged and set into a wise and beautiful order. We are also told here that this has all happened BY THE WORD of God. The writer adds that that the worlds were not made of existing matter and neither are they held together nor do the function in their beautiful order by anything that is scene. They were spoken into existence and they function in their order by the WORD OF GOD.

Now let me get our minds back to what is being said by the writer here because this is very important.

**Notice Hebrews 11:3 again.**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> word of this verse is very important. He reminds the Hebrews of THEIR faith in God concerning the creation and the functioning order of the universe. He is saying, "By faith you and I understand that the worlds have been created by the Word of God and by faith we believe that it is all held together." They did not lay in their beds at night and stress about the sun falling out of the sky. They did not worry about the sun rising or setting. They did not stress about seeds placed in the ground wondering if they would grow. They did not stress about the seasons of the year for they had faith there would always be spring, summer, fall, and winter. They could REST in God for all of this then they should be able to REST in Him concerning the everyday needs for life. Through the "telescope" of faith they could see that God had created the world with His spoken Word and through the telescope they could see that God held it all together with His spoken Word.

**Psalms 102:25**

<sup>25</sup> *Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands.*

**1 Samuel 2:8**

<sup>8</sup> *He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and he hath set the world upon them.*

**Colossians 1:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> *For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:*

<sup>17</sup> *And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*

**Hebrews 1:3**

<sup>3</sup> *Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high:*

Then there is Psalm 104!

**Psalm 104:1-24**

*Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty.*

<sup>2</sup> *Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain:*

<sup>3</sup> *Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who maketh the clouds his chariot: who walketh upon the wings of the wind:*

<sup>4</sup> *Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire:*

<sup>5</sup> *Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever.*

<sup>6</sup> *Thou coveredst it with the deep as with a garment: the waters stood above the mountains.*

<sup>7</sup> *At thy rebuke they fled; at the voice of thy thunder they hasted away.*

<sup>8</sup> *They go up by the mountains; they go down by the valleys unto the place which thou hast founded for them.*

<sup>9</sup> *Thou hast set a bound that they may not pass over; that they turn not again to cover the earth.*

<sup>10</sup> *He sendeth the springs into the valleys, which run among the hills.*

<sup>11</sup> *They give drink to every beast of the field: the wild asses quench their thirst.*

<sup>12</sup> *By them shall the fowls of the heaven have their habitation, which sing among the branches.*

<sup>13</sup> *He watereth the hills from his chambers: the earth is satisfied with the fruit of thy works.*

<sup>14</sup> *He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth;*

<sup>15</sup> *And wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face to shine, and bread which strengtheneth man's heart.*

<sup>16</sup> *The trees of the LORD are full of sap; the cedars of Lebanon, which he hath planted;*

<sup>17</sup> *Where the birds make their nests: as for the stork, the fir trees are her house.*

<sup>18</sup> *The high hills are a refuge for the wild goats; and the rocks for the conies.*

<sup>19</sup> *He appointed the moon for seasons: the sun knoweth his going down.*

<sup>20</sup> *Thou makest darkness, and it is night: wherein all the beasts of the forest do creep forth.*

<sup>21</sup> *The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their meat from God.*

<sup>22</sup> *The sun ariseth, they gather themselves together, and lay them down in their dens.*

<sup>23</sup> *Man goeth forth unto his work and to his labour until the evening.*

<sup>24</sup> *O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.*

Now I want to take this thought a little further because the writer of Hebrews includes a thought in his statement that we do not see on the surface.

Not only has God spoken the worlds into existence and not only does He control the order and the function of the universe with His Word but He also controls the AFFAIRS of this world with His power. Namely, God is always working to bring His will and His promises to fulfillment. These Hebrew believers would have known that over the years there was nothing which could stop the promises of God. Let me give you some examples.

### **Genesis 3:14-15**

<sup>14</sup> *And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:*

<sup>15</sup> *And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*

Here was the first promise of the coming Redeemer. From this promise forward Satan did his best to keep this from coming to fruition. In Genesis 6 we read that Satan had led the entire human race into destruction. But then we read:

**Genesis 6:8**

<sup>8</sup> *But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.*

Deeper into Genesis we read of Abraham and Sarah, through whom the Promise is to be kept alive, growing old with no children. Then we read:

**Genesis 21:1-3**

*And the LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did unto Sarah as he had spoken.*

<sup>2</sup> *For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.*

<sup>3</sup> *And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac.*

**Conclusion:**

There is nothing which you and I need to fear. We just need to walk by faith and know that God's promises will be fulfilled. When we grow anxious then we need to look around at the creation and the order of the universe for it is a display of the glory and the power of God.

**Psalm 19:1**

*The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.*