

Faith, hope, love and Grace

Week 1

Faith

Hebrews 11:3-40

Do we get the "BY Faith" Statement

1. By Faith and they didn't even see it! Eg Abraham
V13

Heb 11:13 All these people died having faith. They did not receive the things that were promised, yet they saw them in the distant future and welcomed them, acknowledging that they were strangers and foreigners on earth.

Do we get discouraged by faith not being fulfilled? Does it affect our faith?

2. Faith to the end -
V21- 22

Heb 11:21 By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph's sons "and worshiped while leaning on the top of his staff."

Heb 11:22 By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelis and gave them instructions about burying his bones.

Faith passed on.

3. Faith God will

V29-31

Heb 11:29 By faith they went through the Red Sea as if it were dry land. When the Egyptians tried to do this, they were drowned.

Heb 11:30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days.

Heb 11:31 By faith Rahab the prostitute did not die with those who were disobedient, because she had welcomed the spies

with a greeting of peace.

Arrrh, here is the step of faith thing, what steps do we take to demonstrate faith?

Do we give our tithes believing God will make the 9/10ths go as far as the 10/10ths as He promised in Malachi?

Do we step out and share God with people around us?

Do we share Jesus with our family who we know to be cynical?

Do we as a church have a go at something new even if we can't afford it? Or don't have the skills, or whatever?

Where is our faith demonstrated?

4. Faith in lifestyle

V33-37

Heb 11:33 Through faith they conquered kingdoms, administered justice, received promises, shut the mouths of lions,

Heb 11:34 put out raging fires, escaped death by the sword, found strength in weakness, became powerful in battle, and routed foreign armies.

Heb 11:35 Women received their dead raised back to life. Other people were brutally tortured, but refused to be ransomed, so that they might gain a better resurrection.

Heb 11:36 Still others endured taunts and floggings, and even chains and imprisonment.

Heb 11:37 They were stoned to death, sawed in half, and killed with swords. They went around in sheepskins and goatskins. They were needy, oppressed, and mistreated.

Oh this is hard, it follows on from the last point, when the pressure is on do we react as faithful or panic?

That list, go over it again, what is our reaction?

Last year I saw great faith, Marianne's breast cancer diagnosis- scary but Marianne reacts how, with faith - it's in God's hands. I was panicking, she was faithing!

How do we deal with what is in front of us? By faith. The examples are there. They did so we can and should and will.

But it's tricky to put into practice. We'll put it together more over the next few weeks.