

THE ONE YEAR BIBLE CLUB

WITH TEACHING COMMENTARY BY NICK BOORK

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November 12 – Hebrews 11:1-16

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. ²For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. ³By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. ⁴By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks. ⁵By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, “and was not found, because God had taken him”; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. ⁶But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

⁷By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. ⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; ¹⁰for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

¹¹By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore. ¹³These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. ¹⁴For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. ¹⁵And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

OKAY, HERE'S MY TEACHING COMMENTARY

In this portion of Paul's letter he explains the real meaning of faith in God and gives several examples of people that had faith in the Old Testament. In verse 1 he says that faith is the substance of things hoped for. In other words, the thing that you are believing for is the substance or the object which is the goal of your hope. He says it's also the evidence of things not seen. The evidence of what is not seen is what you believe is real or something that will come to pass but has not yet manifested like one of the promises of God the Jesus will return. We believe God's word and put our hope in Him that what he promised he will perform.

God exercised his faith when he spoke the universe into existence. His awesome plan was inside him in the form of a vision then he spoke his word and caused things to be created from what is invisible, what was inside of him as God, he spoke into existence materially. This is what happened in the beginning. Genesis 1:3 says; “Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.” Before God spoke there was only darkness in the material world but after he spoke in faith “Let there be light” suddenly there was light! Faith is kind of hard to understand. It’s like you need to have faith in the reality of an all-powerful God to understand faith. Verse 6 says; “But without faith it is impossible to please him because he who comes to God must believe that he is and that he is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him.” God has put within every person the ability to believe that he does exist as God. There are three categories of people today:

- The Agnostic says there may be a God but I don’t believe it because I can’t see him.
- The Atheist denies the very existence of God.
- The Believer says I know God exists because of his word and the evidence of creation.

So believing that God exists is the foundation to having faith but if you want to please God then you not only need to have faith in him but you also need to believe that he is a REWARDER of those who diligently seek him. Now this is where some people are challenged in their understanding of God because some have the wrong concept of God and think that he is an angry God that does love us or want to bless us. Others think they need to be a perfect person before God would consider answering their prayers or showing them his goodness. However if you’re a true born-again child of God then you come to know him as father and you grow to believe in his goodness to you personally through the reading of his word and that he wants to reward your faith with answers to your prayers and His promises written in the Bible and that’s exciting!

From the example of Noah, we see that his faith in God caused him to believe that a flood was going to destroy the earth and that he needed to build an ark according to everything that God spoke to him. Faith caused him to take action, build the ark and God rewarded him and his family with salvation! God called Abraham to follow him and leave his home country and go to a new land that God would give him as an inheritance. His faith in what God showed him caused him to obey God. The Bible records that Abraham left his own home country not knowing where he was going. When God puts something into our heart or he reveals his purpose and plans to us through his written word and the Holy Spirit speaks to us we need to take a step of faith to obey God and fulfill his purpose for our lives.

This is the kind of faith that is developed through spending time with God in prayer and worship. It’s sensing what God is telling you to do for him and then moving in that direction. God will guide us as we are obedient to his leading. I have personally experienced the guidance of God for my life but it required that I trusted him and stepped out in faith to go places I had never been and do things that I didn’t know I could do or not. He has led me to go to Christ for the Nations Institute where my life was radically transformed and I heard the call of God to be a missionary. I followed the leading of the Lord to a language school to learn Spanish and then to the

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Dominican Republic where I learned to do cross cultural missionary work. During this time I met and married my wife Yngris. I tell you when you obey God he's going to bless and reward your faith if you follow him. This kind of faith leads you into the destiny of God for your life and influences those around you.

God revealed to Abraham that he would be the father of many nations and he believed the promise of God. His wife Sarah also believed the promise that she would become pregnant in her old age and she miraculously conceived Isaac and gave birth to a son in her old age that would carry on the descendants of Abraham. Abraham shared the promises of God with his son Isaac who believed them and embraced them and he also had a son named Jacob who also believed the promises of God. Jacob had 12 sons and he told them about the purpose God revealed to his grandfather Abraham and his father Isaac. Through the faith of these people the nation of Israel was birthed that gave us the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.

The Bible teaches us that these Old Testament saints had faith in God and his promises but they never received them while they walked the earth but they believed them and they embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. They believed that God would give them their own country which he did and will do eternally as well. The Bible teaches us that God has prepared for his people Israel and us the Gentiles that have been grafted in to the olive tree of faith an eternal city and Kingdom. There are so many promises of God for both now and the future that we need to believe and embrace.

One of my favorite promises concerning the future is in Daniel 7:14 which says; "Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed." This refers to the Lord Jesus Christ the King of Kings and Lord of Lords who will reign over us his people forever in the eternal Kingdom of God but this promise has not yet been fulfilled so we need to have faith that what God promised will happen. This creates hope within us and causes us to live in expectation of all that God is going to do! When we trust in him and live for his purposes this is what pleases God and he is not ashamed to be called our God because we put our faith in him and it guides our lives every day.

WHAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE?

- 1) Faith is the substance of what we hope for.
- 2) God spoke the universe into existence by faith.
- 3) It's impossible to please God without exercising faith in Him.

- 4) We also have to believe that God is a REWARDER of our faith. He wants to bless us!
- 5) Faith causes us to obey God and move in the direction of his purpose for our lives.
- 6) We live by faith daily for both answers to prayer on the short term and the word of God creates faith and hope in us for everything God has promised to do in the future.

PRAYER TO APPLY THE WORD OF GOD TO OUR LIVES



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