**Hebrews 11: Faith is the basis of all effective Christian living**

**Main: When we believe God, we please God**

**Hebrews 11:1-16 - God’s acceptance of faith**

**Prologue: Hebrews 11:1-3 – Faith**

**1. Its basic nature (11:1) An inner conviction of unseen realities**

**2. The honor associated with it (11:2) Brought approval to OT heroes**

**3. It’s a way of seeing things (11:3)**

**Since no one was there, every view of origins = an act of faith**

**Faith = The way we look at the world**

**“Faith is…a way of viewing all experience**

**since it’s the way believers see the universe”**

**Bible Knowledge Commentary, p. 807**

**The Divine Acceptance of Faith 11:4-16**

**Each of these heroes become illustrations for us today**

**1. Abel (11:4)**

* **The focus = the beginning of our Christian lives**
* **Like us, he found acceptance based on a better sacrifice**
* **Like us, he is also viewed as a worshipper based on that sacrifice**
* **Death does not stop the testimony of the one who lives by faith**
* **Faith allows us to outlive our lives**

**2. Enoch (11:5-6)**

* **Contrasted with Abel; our lives could be either...and both = victory**
* **Focus: A life that pleases God**
* **A life of fellowship seeks to please God**
* **A life of faith pleases God whether accomplishments are visible or not**
* **We often think, “No one sees”, but God does**
* **There are people who do great things and don’t walk with God; Enoch did!**
* **Like Enoch, we may never see death**
* **Satan: 1) “There is no God”; 2) “You can’t know anything about Him”**
* **Bible: 1) You must believe God exists 2) If sought, He can be found!**
* **Pleasing God leads to reward!**

**3. Noah (11:7-9)**

* **When we live by faith, it can impact those we love the most, like family**
* **Noah and his family inherited a new world by faith and so can we! (2:5)**
* **Faith not only leads us to victory but condemns others who will not believe**

**4. Abraham (11:8-10)**

* **Abraham won’t experience the promise of the land until the Kingdom**
* **Like him…**
  + **We should look forward to another land to come**
  + **We should live as strangers**
  + **We should realize this is not our home**
  + **We should look forward to the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:1f)**
* **Difficulties have a way of making you want to be home**

**5. Sarah (11:11-12)**

* **The only woman to appear, yet does not take a “back seat” in her faith**
* **Her ability to conceive is tied to her faith**
* **Isaac would never have been born if Sarah had not believed**
* **She regarded the One who promised her reliable**
* **By trusting the promise, she realized it, yet not in her lifetime**
* **God wants us to have that kind of faith**

**Summary (11:13-16)**

**We can still be living by faith when we die!**

**That’s true even if we haven’t yet received what was promised (Joseph!)**

**They “saw” the promised realities and lived as strangers here, refusing to go back to what they knew before.**

**We also need to realize where home is and not get drawn into living a life here as though this is where we belong.**

**We need to live for a better home.**

**Those who do are honored by God.**

**When we live by faith, God is proud of us!**