

**Bible
Lesson**

Saving Faith Described
Hebrews 11:1-3

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Living by faith in light of a future reality

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Abraham's tomb at Machpelah

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MAJOR EMPHASIS OF HEBREWS:

1. To **strengthen** believers' faith in Christ
2. To **warn** against drift, falling away, apostasy
3. To **encourage & warn the church** by its teaching on Christ and His redeeming work

MAJOR THEMES IN HEBREWS:

1. Greatness of Christ Jesus – His Person
2. Mediatorship of Christ Jesus – His Work
3. Greatness of the New Covenant vs. O.C.

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IMMEDIATE CONTEXT IN CHAPTER 11:

1. Just taught about endurance & inheritance

³⁵Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. ³⁶For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise.
Heb 10: 35-36

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IMMEDIATE CONTEXT IN CHAPTER 11:

1. Just taught about endurance & inheritance
2. Now he will hone in on the topic of faith ...

¹Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

...because these persecuted believers needed a faith that could go the distance (durability)

“the one who endures to the end will be saved.”
Mt 24: 13

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True believers are “marathoners”

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OVERVIEW OF CHAPTER 11:

1. **General description** of faith, v1
2. **Aim** of faith, v2
3. **Fundamental presupposition** of faith, v3
4. **Biblical examples** of faith, vv4-40
 - a. Conclusions interspersed throughout
 - b. Faith: foundational to salvation in all ages
 - c. Q. Greater light = *greater responsibility?*
5. **Leads to** great “Therefore” of chapter 12

“Therefore...since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of **witnesses**...”

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DRILLING DOWN:

1. **General description** of faith, v1

¹Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

 - a. “substance” = foundation, basis, reality:
Abraham’s vision: future city of God
 - b. “evidence” = proof, demonstration:
Abraham’s purchase: Machpelah

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EVIDENCE OF FAITH: Abraham’s tomb

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“Prove you’re a tightrope walker!”

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DRILLING DOWN:

1. **General description** of faith, v1

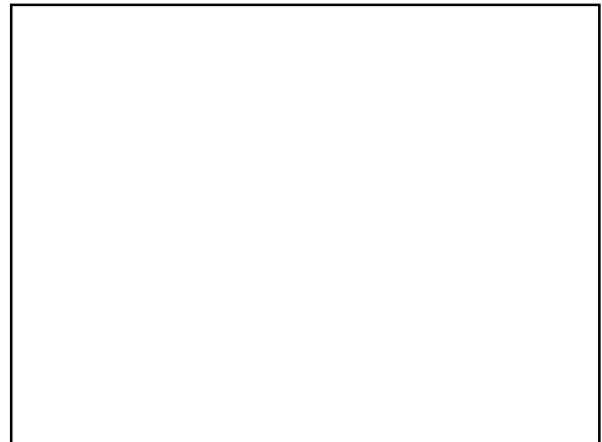
¹Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

 - a. “substance” = foundation, basis, reality:
Abraham’s vision of God’s city
 - b. “evidence” = proof, demonstration:
Abraham’s purchase of Machpelah
 - c. Saving faith is **more than empty talk**

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“
 Faith sees the reality of God’s promises
 and embraces them.”

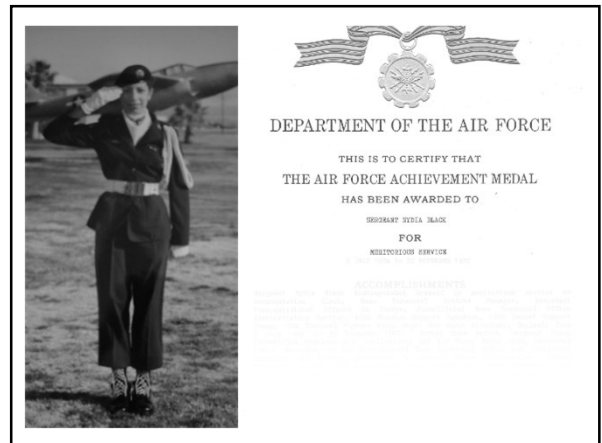
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DRILLING DOWN:
 2. Aim of faith, v2
²For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.
 a. “testimony” = witness, **report**, record

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DRILLING DOWN:
 2. Aim of faith, v2
²For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.
 a. “testimony” = witness, **report**, record
 b. The testimony: **from God** the Lead Tester

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¹⁴For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹²Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³**each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is.**
¹⁴If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.
 1Cor 3: 11-15

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DRILLING DOWN:
2. Aim of faith, v2
²For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.
 a. “testimony” = witness, **report**, record
 b. The testimony: **from God** the Lead Tester
 c. Faith commended as **genuine**, not fake

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⁶In this you greatly rejoice [i.e. your “living hope” in Christ and “incorruptible inheritance”], though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷that **the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ**, ⁸whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.
 1Pet 1: 6-9

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DRILLING DOWN:
2. Aim of faith, v2
²For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.
 a. “testimony” = witness, **report**, record
 b. The testimony: **from God** the Purifier
 c. Faith commended as **genuine**, not fake
 d. It originated from God, held up under trial by God, and lasted to the end by God

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³I thank my God upon every remembrance of you...
⁶being confident of this very thing, that **He who has begun a good work in you will complete it** until the day of Jesus Christ
 Php 1: 3, 6
⁸For by grace you have been saved **through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God**,
⁹not of works, lest anyone should boast.
 Eph 2: 8-9

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“
 Saving faith **relies** upon God’s word.
 It **expresses** hope in God’s promises.
 It **rests** confidently in God’s providence.
 It **produces** good works in God’s kingdom.”

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¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.
 Eph 2: 10

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DRILLING DOWN:

3. Fundamental presupposition of faith, v3

³ By 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**.

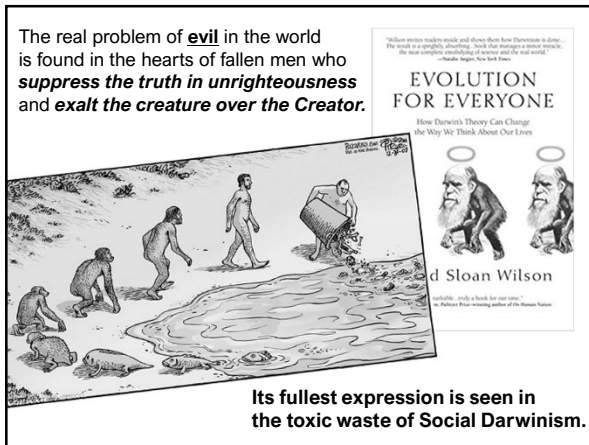
- a. Creator of All Things: Seen & Unseen
***form, function, fitting together, future**
- b. His Word is All-wise, All-powerful
- c. Intelligent Design evident in universe
- d. Faith is reasonable, not blind

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Anti-supernaturalism
has a clear agenda

Control ape-

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“
Apes worship apes.”

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RECAP OF HEBREWS 11:1-3:

- 1. General description of faith, v1
- 2. Aim of faith, v2
- 3. Fundamental presupposition of faith, v3

- “Faith **sees** the reality of God’s promises and **embraces** them.”
- “Saving faith **relies** upon God’s word. It **expresses** hope in God’s promises. It **rests** confidently in God’s providence. It **produces** good works in God’s kingdom.”

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NEXT SUNDAY:

- 4. Biblical examples of faith, vv4-40
 - a. Abel
 - b. Enoch
 - c. Noah
 - d. Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob | wife Sarah
 - e. Moses
 - f. City of Jericho & Rahab the harlot
 - g. Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel & the prophets, et al
- *All living by faith in light of a future reality**

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