



Hebrews 11:1-2

Now Faith is.... Sun, Sept 14th 2008

Our world is made up two kinds of people – the “Have’s and the Have-Not’s”

- That is one of those quotes that is thrown around a lot
- Sometimes speaking of money, sometimes power and more
- But today – I want you to understand this statement is true about Faith

Notice Heb 10:37-38

- Speaks of God’s return...judgment – and two kinds of people
- **First – those who are right (just) with God**
 - They are right with God, because they have faith
 - These are those who are saved – **v.39**
- **Second – those who draw back, away from God**
 - They are wrong...and heading for perdition, destruction, hell

This a truth echoed throughout God’s word – consider Hab 2:2-4

- Is a coming judgment that will make all this painfully apparent
- People are either prideful – and thus soul is not right
- Or people are of faith – and they are just – right with God
- Technical note – faith and belief are synonymous, very close in Greek
 - In **Heb 10:38 & 39** – both same Greek word – one noun, one verb
- Thus – Jesus uses same delineation in **John 3:36**

Two types of people in the world – those who have faith and those that don’t

- Last week – **Heb 10:26-29** – warning about pulling away from God
 - Ended with encouragement – we are not those, but those of faith
 - **Heb 11** now comes to strengthen that – build that
 - See, although faith defines us, it is not static – we are to grow in it
 - in **1 Thess 1:3** Paul rejoices that their faith is growing
 - That is our aim today...and in this section of Hebrews
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I. What is Faith?

1. Since my earliest days of being a Christian – pointed to Heb 11:1 for definition

- a. Let's look there and see. Faith is....what?
- b. Admit – I am a little slow, not the sharpest knife in the drawer – definition?
 - i) Not insulting the Word of God...just saying I struggle with it
 - ii) Like looking at one of my daughters calculus problems
- c. Actually, it is not a definition of what faith is, but description of what it does
 - i) Now before we talk about that...and what this is – lets define faith

2. Real Faith is Supernatural

- a. Heb 12:2- Jesus is the author of our faith
- b. Sometimes when faith discussed, talk about how everyone lives on faith
 - i) Every time start car, eat food, sit on chair – expressing faith – truth there
 - ii) Yet, Biblically – so much more. When it talks about faith – supernatural
- c. Eph 2:8-9 – salvation is a gift...faith is a gift

3. Real Faith is Responsive

- a. Not a power to be tapped into – like “force”
- b. Not creative – if you conceive it and believe it your will receive it
 - i) Norman Vincent Peal's Power of Positive Thinking
 - ii) Being positive is good. Being negative is not being spiritual
 - A. Some have said life is 10% of what happens, 90% of how respond
 - B. Is some truth, it is good to be positive, people like you more, life better
 - C. But this is not faith, it does not create thing
 - iii) Is a whole element of false teaching called “faith teaching”
 - A. Simple – the focus becomes you, your words
- c. Not “blind faith” – leap into the dark, a checking of your brains at the door
- d. **Rom 10:17** – faith is a response to the Word of God
 - i) It says it, I believe it. God said it, that settles it, and I believe it

4. Real Faith is to Trust and Obey

- a. Both of these elements are inherent in faith
- b. Trust – we believe God, believe true, what calls us to
- c. Obey – we act on what God says, because we believe it to be true
- d. Examples – if knew light going to fall...if believed, need to act
- e. Catch words “Lordship salvation”

II. What Faith Does

1. Faith is the substance of things hoped for

- a. Substance – ground, literally stands under – supports
- b. Faith holds us up, holds up our hopes, faith undergirds us

2. Faith is the evidence of things not seen

- a. Idea here adds – not just supports – but compels us forward
- b. We believe it and are in pursuit of what we don't yet see, but believe it

III. How God Strengthens our Faith

1. Love God, His ways – are right

- a. Doesn't take the chapter and give us academic thoughts on faith, theoretical
- b. Gives us a one sentence explanation – precise
- c. Then – spend the rest of the chapter giving us examples

2. Heb 10:2 – everyone who has a good testimony – because of faith

- a. Seeks to encourage us with the accounts of those who believed
- b. In one larger sense – that is what this book is – mostly story form
- c. We learn best by...not meant to entertain us – but to build faith

3. Faith is to live in absolute confidence in what God has said, even when you don't see the fullness of the promise yet

Conclusion

Tell the Story of Jehoshaphat in 2 Chr 20

- Call you to be a people of faith
- You who do have faith – call you to great faith
 - Faith that holds you
 - Faith that causes you to pursue all that God has

Only two types of people here – faith and faithless

- Jesus again gives it so clearly in **Jn 3:36**
- Paul tells us that salvation is by faith – **Rom 1:16-17**
- Think of the description when Jesus taught in **Jn 8:20** – praying for