

Discussion Guide: Hall of Fame of Faith – Part 4

Let us examine the Scriptures like the Bereans who "received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true." Acts 17:11 (NIV)

June 29, 2003: "Hall of Fame of Faith - Part 4" by Pastor Kimber Kauffman, Senior Pastor College Park Church. Pastor Kauffman continued his series on faith based on Hebrews 11 with a focus today on a persevering faith with a past, future and present perspective. He ended by reminding us of our homework assignment of filling out and turning in our statement(s) of what God has led us to do by faith.

Pastor began today by sharing his modification of G. H. Chesterton's quote, "Anything worth doing, is worth doing ... even poorly." In our pursuit of excellence, don't be afraid to launch out and just begin doing whatever God lays on your heart to do.

With much passion and insight, Pastor Kauffman challenged us that true faith perseveres. It is not an emotional event, a simple belief, but keeps on going like the Energizer Bunny. Faith endures during difficult times, failures, and weaknesses. Faith in Jesus Christ puts hope in Him, not circumstances.

Faith has been exemplified by the Old Testament saints in the past. Noah building the arc, Able in his worship of God, and the heroes who choose to be persecuted because they had great faith in God and His eternal promises to them rather than to be released if they turned on God.

Faith will be shown in the future as we put our hope in the Scriptures and Jesus Christ's promises. He has promised eternal life and rewards for our work done in faith for His glory, His will, and His kingdom.

Faith is being demonstrated now as believers work out their salvation and do good deeds. We can't please God (Hebrews. 11:6) without faith, so our faith needs to be focused on doing His work (i.e. reaching the unsaved, giving of our time and resources to further His kingdom, spreading the word of God, etc.). True faith demands deeds of faith (James 2).

Discussion Questions

Read Hebrews 11:1-6 to start off the teaching application time.

1. Name a few things people put their hope in other than Jesus Christ? How do you know when someone has put their hope and faith in Jesus Christ versus one of the "gods" just mentioned?
2. As image bearers of Christ, we should easily make time to worship our Creator. Why do we often struggle with having personal devotion time? What are some keys to making time and having quality time with our Creator?
3. Persevering faith is saving faith. What are some personal examples of when you endured through a trial and clearly saw how God built your faith?
4. By next meeting what is one thing you will do differently to have quality time with the Lord?

"Do not merely listen to the word and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." James 1:22