

## **FAITH (4 lessons)** **By Bob Young**

### **LESSON 1—Faith and Seeking: Where to Start**

#### **Heb 11:1-6**

- 1- Faith defined, 1
  
- 2- Faith described, 1-6
  - Assurance and conviction
  - Relates to the future
  - Has as its object, “things not seen”
  - Is essential to pleasing God
  
- 3- Faith detailed, 6
  - Believe God is (exists)
  - Believe God rewards the diligent seeker

If God suddenly ceased existing, would it make any difference in your life?

Would your life be shattered or only slightly affected?

What does it mean to seek God? What does it mean to seek diligently?

What are some ways we can seek God?

Why is faith such a struggle for us at times?

Is faith foundational for your life? How would you prove that?

Why does faith seem to relate to uncertainty rather than certainty?

Are you an optimist or a pessimist? How does this relate to faith?

What substitutes do people use instead of faith?

How would you recommend a person start seeking God?

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### **LESSON 2—How to Develop an Enduring Faith**

#### **Heb 11:6-40**

These verses look backward to faithful characters of the OT who pleased God.

- 1- Things to Be Noticed
  - The Context
  - The Theme
  - The Structure
  
- 2- Truths to Be Considered
  - Faith always relates to people where they are. People of faith are not a certain type with a certain life and certain history that can be duplicated only with identical circumstances.
  - Faith always relates to circumstances
    - Odds are often overwhelming
    - Outcomes are not always pleasant
  - Faith always relates to God
    - Faithfulness brings God pleasure
    - Faithfulness honors God.
  - Faith always relates to you.

### -3- Warnings to Be Heeded

Faith is not a substitute for wisdom or common sense...be careful.

The proper use of faith will turn life right side up...be ready.

Which of the personalities in Hebrews 11 do you relate to most readily? Why?

If one sees faith as a nice, neat doctrinal system only, it is difficult to make faith active in life. What part does faith play in the following areas of life: **Finances, Attitudes, Ideas, Trials, Home**

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## LESSON 3—How to Stop a Shrinking Faith

### Heb 10:19-11:1

How we live out the reality of faith is a #1 problem for many Christians. We talk about it, but we wonder if we live it. This is a word used over 200 times in the Bible.

#### -1- Three Categories of Faith

Saving Faith—is the faith that combines with God’s grace in salvation, Rom. 5:1; Eph. 2:5-10; Gal. 3:26

- What are the elements of saving faith?
- What does a person have to believe (know) to have this kind of faith?

Doctrinal Faith—this is the composite of Christian truth that makes us our basic belief system. This is the kind of faith the Bible describes in the phrase “the faith.”

Is it possible for a person to believe (know) in faith without having saving faith?

What are the elements of doctrinal faith?

Practical Faith—describes the principles of Scripture by which we must live to overcome life’s cares and difficulties. Some call this confidence or trust. It is the ability to act upon what one believes.

How would you describe practical faith?

What are some of the elements of practical faith?

#### -2- Three Tests of Faith

- The test that asks us to believe things that are reasonable. Some do not act upon those things that are reasonably certain.
- The test that asks us to do something that does not make sense to us. Many more fail to act upon those things for which they cannot understand the meaning or sense.
- The test that asks us to do something that seems contradictory or wrong to us. Abraham’s test of faith may be an example of this kind of test.

#### -3- Two Groups of Christians (10:32-39)

- Those who stand firm in their faith
  - Remember the previous times
  - Retain your confidence
  - Exercise your faith
- Those who shrink back from faith
  - God is not pleased
  - Their lot is misery and pain

Are you a stander or a shirker?

What is the difference?

Why is there no instant faith?

What part does endurance play in the development of faith?

Has your faith ever been tested? How did you respond? What lessons did you learn? What advice would you give?

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## **LESSON 4—How to Live by Faith**

### **Hebrews 12:1-3**

- 1- Remember the witnesses in the race
  
- 2- Prepare for the race
  - We are basically unprepared for trusting God
  - Things to lay aside
  - Instructions to runners

-3- Focus during the race  
Keep your eyes fixed on the example

- 4- Think about how to run the race

What do you think it means to live by faith?

What changes in your life would help you better live by faith?

What part of living by faith do you find hardest?