

# *Ordinary People Pleasing God*

## **Heb 11**

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### **Intro** *What is faith? Who has it?*

- A. Some think it's just being optimistic
  - 1. *"I sure hope everything works out! I have faith that it will!"*
  - 2. Faith is more concrete than that.
    - a. **Heb 11:1**
    - b. *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."* (NKJ)
- B. Some think "real" faith is only for those "spiritual giants"
  - 1. Elders, preachers & the like.
- C. Faith is for everybody!
  - 1. Ordinary, everyday people doing the ordinary, everyday things of life.
- D. Notice the context of Heb 11 begins in chapter 10
  - 1. **Heb 10:32-39**
  - 2. Sets the tone for theme of Heb 11 - **Enduring faith**
  - 3. God doesn't want His children to shrink back in times of difficulty.

### **I. Faith As It Relates To People**

- A. Looking at the men & women of Heb 11, we feel a little intimidated.
  - 1. *"Great people, accomplished great things, but I can't do that! I'm not that type."*
- B. If that sounds familiar, ask yourself *"What 'type' were the people in Heb 11?"*
  - 1. **Vs 3 Abel** - A simple herdsman
  - 2. **Vs 5 Enoch** - All we know is he walked with God
  - 3. **Vs 7 Noah** - Apparently just a regular guy
  - 4. **Vs 8 Abraham** - A wanderer
  - 5. **Vs Sarah** - A homemaker
  - 6. **Vs 22 Joseph** - Shepherd, slave, prisoner, prime minister
  - 7. **Vs 23 Moses** - Shepherd
  - 8. **Vs 31 Rahab** - A harlot
- C. Most of these people had common, even undesirable backgrounds, yet learned to live by faith.
  - 1. The only "type" of person God is interested in is described in **Rom 8:28-30**
  - 2. This, He accomplishes through our faith. It is the work He has given man to do.
    - a. *"This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."* John 6:29

### **II. Faith As It Relates To Circumstances**

- A. It's clear that ordinary people can live extraordinary lives of faith.
  - 1. **Heb 11:32-38**
- B. It wasn't Noah's skill, Moses' background, or Rahab's reputation that merit their mention in the "Hall of Faith"
  - 1. It's their firm, enduring trust in God

### **III. Faith As It Relates To God**

- A. It brings pleasure to God
  - 1. **Heb 11:6**
  - 2. If not, why would He give rewards?
- B. Faith honors God
  - 3. **Heb 11:16**
  - 4. This happens when men act in a manner that reflect God as Creator, Benefactor, Protector, Father, and Friend
- C. He supports those who follow Him
  - 1. *“For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His.” 2 Chr 16:9*

### **IV. Faith As It Relates To You**

- A. If we, ordinary people in ordinary lives, can have faith that God will reward us, we too can endure.
  - 1. **Heb 6:9-12, 10:35-39**

### **Conc. Let us join the ranks of those we read about**

- A. **Heb 12:1-3**
- B. Be resolved to exercise daily trusting faith in spite of the adversity you face.
  - 1. Do the things that bring honor to God and trust that your efforts will not be in vain.
  - 2. Be one of whom “the world is not worthy!”