

What Faith Does

Hebrews 10:35 – 11:38

In our previous study, we explored the importance of persevering in our walk with God, (See: [A Call to Persevere](#)). Let us now take a look at what faith does.



We are instructed in Hebrews 10:35-38, “Do not throw away [discard] your confidence [faith, trust, belief]; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere [hold fast to the truth of God] so that when you have done [obeyed] the will of God; you will receive what he has promised [the eternal inheritance]. My righteous will live by faith.”

We see that the mark of a believer, who is walking in saving faith, is that they hold fast to the truth of God—obeying God’s will for their life. This is what faith does.

The believer is saved by God’s grace through faith. We come to know and experience God’s grace as faith is released in our lives. Salvation is a gift from God that cannot be achieved by works; however because we are now created in Christ Jesus we are to do good works. The works of righteousness or better called obedience is evidence that we are walking in saving faith. It is evidence that we actually believe what we profess (Ephesians 2:8-10). In the book of James we learn, “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” (James 1:22). In other words, if we do not obey the word of God, we are not walking in faith—thus we fail to see the grace of God revealed in our lives.

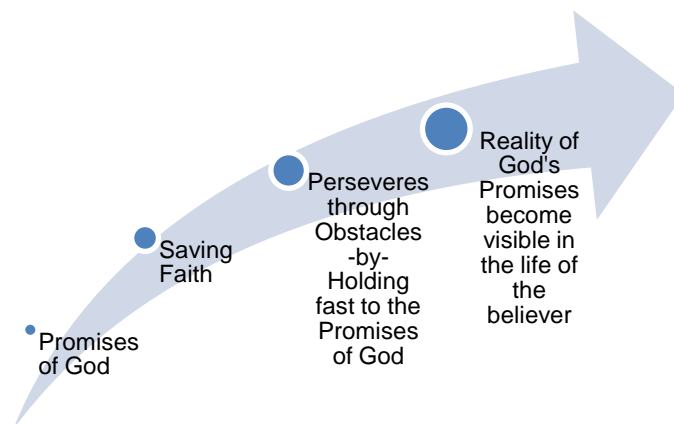
Faith takes what is believed and perseveres. It is more than an intellectual or emotional response—it involves the whole heart, which requires volition or the “will” to be set in motion. Volition is the act of making a conscious choice or decision—it results in an outward visible response. When we believe God, we are taking something that is invisible and allowing it to become visible through us. This is what faith does.

We learn in Hebrews 11:1, “Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see” (NIV, emphasis added). KJV reads, “Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”



Through faith the elders obtained a good report (v.2). Faith involves a conviction of things not seen. We commit our lives to it. We live it out—although we have never seen it. Saving faith stands the test. Faith endures and persevering under trial. It governs our behavior. This kind of faith does not originate from us – for faith arises out of God’s promises—not the other way around. Faith involves knowledge, emotion, and the will.

Our will is engaged when we trust God's promises and surrender our lives to him and his word. Otherwise, it is just an intellectual emotional kind of faith that does not save. Jesus' words recorded in the book of Matthew tell us if we find a great treasure in a field, we are to go sell everything to obtain the field and the treasure within (Matthew 13: 44-46). Nothing less is asked for in relation to God's promises. We must surrender all if want to see the reality of those promises in our lives. Anything less is not saving faith and will not bring about the reality of God's promises in our lives.



Faith believes that God is (v.6). God is who he is as he is revealed in the Scripture. Jesus is God incarnate. We see this in the Holy Scriptures. He is not just another Jesus; he is the one who is the visible image of the invisible God who is revealed in the gospels through his death, burial, and resurrection. We have seen in the book of Hebrews this Jesus as the great high priest who has offered up the saving sacrifice and now lives to intercede for us at the right hand of God Almighty. Let us hold fast to him. He has also sent his Holy Spirit to lead us into righteousness. This Holy Spirit is said in Scripture to be a deposit of the good things to come—the promise.

Faith seeks God (v.6). This is not a new idea but has been in the Scriptures since the beginning. The list of the faithful in Hebrews 11 demonstrates this to us. Based on what they knew, with the emotion that arose in them, they willed to follow God no matter what. That is saving faith. This is what faith does. They perused God no matter what the cost—no matter where it led them. They had a thirst born in them that only God could quench. Saving faith perseveres in obedience and surrenders to what has been promised by God.



In Hebrews Chapter 11, we see the examples of faith as it perseveres with obedience. We see faith:

- Worshipping (v.4)
- Walking with God (v.5)
- Working for God (v. 7)
- Obeying God (v.8)
- Overcoming barrenness (v.11)

- Overpowering death (v.12)
- Persevering unto death (vv.13-16)
- Trusting with possessions (vv.17-19)
- Believing God for the future (vv.20-25)
- Turning away from earthly treasure toward a heavenly reward (vv.24-26)
- Seeing him who is invisible (v.27)
- Receiving miracles from the hand of God (vv.28-30)
- Being courageous in great danger (vv. 31-34)
- *In verses 33-38, we see faith:*
- Conquering kingdoms
- Obtaining provisions
- Shutting the mouths of lions
- Quenching the power of fire
- Escaping the edge of the sword
- Moving from weakness to strength
- Becoming mighty in war
- Putting armies to flight
- Overcoming death, torture, prison, chains, temptation, martyrdom, and all kinds of hardship.

Application: You may be facing a great trial in your life right now. Will you believe God in your circumstance-- responding in faith—which is to surrender to God’s commands and promises? Will you allow God’s will to be manifested through your life today?

By Faith ___ (fill in your name and response) _____

The author of Hebrews has been clear all along...Let go of your “works righteousness” and take up the faith that arises in your heart when you believe what God says is true... This is what faith does.

What’s Your Next Step?

You are loved!

Larry Roach



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