

**Monday****Hebrews 11:5-6**
Genesis 5:21-24

Enoch is one of only two characters in the Old Testament who are recorded as to have missed a physical death and instead were taken straight to Heaven. While we may ponder how and why God may have not allowed him to experience death, the author of Hebrews is clear that God found pleasure with Enoch through faith. We can know that while the result of our faith may not be predictable (i.e., we do not know what God will do as we exercise faith), we know that our faith pleases God. Therefore, it is up to God to express His goodness and wisdom to us as He pleases. In some cases, He may choose to take people straight to Heaven; in others, He may choose to allow someone to die on a cross. Either way, we can guarantee that His decision provides a means for us to both 1) draw closer to Him and 2) be a part of His plan to reconcile the world to Himself. But we often get lost in a pursuit for circumstantial improvements, and we end up trying to leverage our faith in God in order to advance ourselves. How then, can we experience our faith and walk with God in a way that places our relationship with Him truly beyond our circumstances? To a place where our trials and joys are all opportunities for us to worship and not stumbling blocks for us to advance our agenda? The answer is fairly straightforward - pray for humility and for the clarity to see how God is working to shape your character and to use you to increase the spreading of His glory across the Earth.

Tuesday**Hebrews 11:7**
Genesis 6-9:1-17

At this point, the author has fully dived in to exhibit how our relationship with God is characterized by faith, and how even the Old Testament saints were able to experience and take part through faith in the pleasure, power, and plan of God. In today's reading, Noah, who through faith and obedience constructed the ark, paved the way for humanity and the world to be reset so that God's glory may be spread throughout the Earth as He intended. Once again, God brought forth an incredible change in the world through the faith of person who engaged in an act they did not see but believed to be true. How is your faith allowing you to experience the pleasure, power, and plan of God? How is God using your faith to reflect His glory on the Earth?

**Wednesday**

Hebrews 11:8-12
Hebrews 11:17-19
Genesis 12-13
Genesis 18
Genesis 21-22

Today's text is focused on Abraham and Sarah. By faith, Abraham journeyed to a land that God promised him; by faith, Sarah conceived Isaac; and by faith, Abraham believed that God would somehow work through his being willing to sacrifice his son Isaac. Once again, this reaffirms that our faith exists for us to know God and to experience Him. Take a moment and reflect on the times in your life when God had you act through faith. How do you evaluate those times? How do you evaluate your faith? In many ways, our culture has taught us that we consider our faith "strong" if it results in some "good" outcome we had hoped for (i.e. healings, provisions, etc). However, the Bible invites us to evaluate faith based on our growing love for Him — and that is regardless of circumstantial outcome.

Thursday

Hebrews 11:13-16
Matthew 13

The author of Hebrews reminds the audience that none of the Old Testament saints actually got to physically experience the fullness of God's promise. Instead, their faith led them to act and granted them the opportunity to know God more and truly see beyond what was immediately apparent. Spend some time worshipping God and thanking Him for what He has allowed you to see through your faith. How are you seeing the bigger picture of what God is doing on this Earth?

Friday

Hebrews 11:20
Genesis 27

While popular interpretations of the story of Jacob and Esau tend to focus on the dramatic aspects of their relationship, the author of Hebrews found it worth visiting the fact that Isaac blessed both Jacob and Esau. It was by faith that Isaac gave these blessings, for Isaac had no ability to ensure the future of his sons since he was near death. However, he believed that God would bring to reality what Isaac had said over his sons. Pray that God would continue to draw you near to Him so that the things you say and think will be informed by faith.

Saturday

Hebrews 11:21
Genesis 47-48

As Jacob received a dying blessing from his father Isaac, Jacob also provided a dying blessing to his grandsons Ephraim and Manasseh. Also like his father Isaac, Jacob had no ability to see these blessings come to reality, but he was assured through his walk with God that they would. Like yesterday, pray that God would continue to draw you near to Him so that the things you say and think will be informed by your faith and by the magnitude of His goodness.

**Sunday****Hebrews 11:22****Genesis 50****Exodus 13:19**

The author of Hebrews continues to express the importance of faith, as we read that it was by faith Joseph knew that the people of Israel would one day leave Egypt and go to the land promised. It's fascinating to assume that Joseph probably did not have clear understanding that the Hebrew people would suffer extensively and be in Egypt for 430 years before their arrival! Joseph had faith that regardless of means and time, the Hebrews would once again make way towards the Promised Land. You have spent some time evaluating your faith, recognizing that faith is firmly established by believing God, and that faith grows by growing closer to Him and trusting in Him. In what ways have challenges (timing, changes, etc) dimmed your faith and how can it be renewed?