

# Chesswood Baptist Church

## Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

**NOW FAITH IS THE SUBSTANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR,  
THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN.**

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL, JR.

SUNDAY MORNING, JANUARY 31, 2021

SCRIPTURE READING: **HEBREWS 11:1-5**

**Hebrews 11:1, Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**

### 1. BACKGROUND

Refer to the Evening message January 31, 2021

### 2. INTRODUCTION

- a. Many have called **chapter 11** the hero's of faith; also known as the "faith" chapter.
- b. Upon close examination we find that it speaks of both men and women who display extra-ordinary faith. Our primary focus will be on Father Abraham.
- c. The definition of faith, from the Word of God, is clearly stated in **Hebrews 11:1, Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**
- d. God intends for His people to walk by faith and not by sight.  
**2 Corinthians 5:7, (For we walk by faith, not by sight)**
- e. We will view today what faith has done in the lives of men and women down through the years.
- f. God's people are encouraged to not base their lives on the Sermon on the Mount and the Ten Commandments; but on our Lord Jesus Christ and what He has done for us on the cross. **Colossians 2:10, And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:**
- g. It appears that the human mind and heart always wants some rule to govern.
- h. This is the reason why men and women turn to the Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount.
- i. We cannot be saved by the Ten Commandments nor can we be saved by the Sermon on the Mount; we are saved by grace through faith.  
**Ephesians 2:8, For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:**
- j. The Bible says in **Romans 10:17, So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**
- k. When we truly walk by faith and depend on God, we do not attempt to walk by sight. Most of us walk by sight and advertise we are walking by faith. **2 Corinthians 4:18, While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen**

*are eternal.*

- l. **The sin of unbelief got the Israelites in real trouble with God** and is clearly revealed to us it is the worse sin that anyone can commit. The very essence of salvation depends on what we believe concerning the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- m. God had a remedy for sin. As a matter of fact, He has based the plan of salvation on not what we see but what is unseen. **John 20:29, Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. John 11:25-26, Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: 26: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?**
- n. **There is no unpardonable sin for those who know Jesus Christ as Saviour;** however, **if God's plan of salvation is rejected** there is no way one can be saved. **Hebrews 6:6, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.**
- o. There is no act one can commit today that will cause them to not be worthy of the plan of salvation that Jesus Christ came and laid down.
- p. If one continues in the state of unbelief, God has no remedy for them at all. **John 3:18, He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.**
- q. With that introduction, let us look at different people who took different routes, but all were anchored in faith believing God. **Hebrews 11:6, But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**

### 3. FIVE POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

- a. **Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**
  - 1. **Hebrews 11:1, Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**
  - 2. As we journey through life there are two ways God has set before us; Faith and unbelief. **Deuteronomy 30:19, I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:**
  - 3. He has planned a way for us, and we are to accept what His will is for our life. **Ecclesiastes 12:13, Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.**
  - 4. When we look at some of our Bible hero's such as Adam, Abraham, Isaac, David, and Daniel we see they all walked by faith.
  - 5. God has indicated that you and I are to walk by faith also. **Galatians 5:16, This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.**
  - 6. Faith is believing what we know about God and is based not on what we see but is based on the unseen. It is what God has promised should be the basis of one's belief.  
**2 Peter 1:4, Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.**

7. Faith is the substance of things hoped for. The word hope is not a colossal word that means a shot in the dark; maybe it will or maybe it will not happen.
8. Hope simply means that God will perform what He said. **Hebrews 11:6, *But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. 2 Timothy 1:12, For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.***
9. When God wills it to be done, it is done already. **Romans 4:17, *(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.***
10. Men and women this day and time are attempting to take God and put Him in a test tube. This will not work!
11. It did not work for the Gnostics who profess to have super knowledge, and neither will it work for us today.
12. Faith rest upon the Preserved Word of God; what He has said and what He will do. **Romans 14:23, *And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.***
13. We are not of them who draw back unto perdition. **Hebrews 10:39, *But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.***
14. There are always two ways: the way of God and the way of Satan.
15. We MUST take the way of God if we plan to be in His perfect will and for our destination to be Heaven.
16. Faith is the evidence of things not seen.
17. Many times, when God makes a promise, we cannot see before our eyes that it has come true.
18. Faith is not a leap in the dark, not a hope-so faith; it is believing God.
19. Many times, when we believe God and follow His ways it appears to be foolishness unto men. **1 Corinthians 1:18, *For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.***

**b. For by it the elders obtained a good report.**

1. **Hebrews 11:2, For by it the elders obtained a good report.**
2. Our elders, by faith, obtained a good report from God.
3. So, can you and I. **Hebrews 1:1-2, *God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2: Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;***
4. Noah walked with God. **Genesis 6:9, *These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.***
5. The elders obtained a good report not because they were wonderful people or had a self-righteous attitude, but because they believed God.
6. Having faith took Abraham to Heaven. **Genesis 15:6, And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness. James 2:23, *And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed***

unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

7. We must walk by faith and not by sight.
8. Christ died down here to save us; He lives up there to keep us saved.
9. This is the heart of the Gospel.

**c. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God,...**

1. **Hebrews 11:3, Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.**
2. We just finished a couple of messages that told us how the universe came into existence.
3. It is based on one of two references; **speculation** or **revelation**.
4. God's revelation is found in **Genesis 1:1, In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.**
5. The earth was framed by the Preserved Word of God. **Hebrews 11:3, Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.**
6. We know that the Preserved Word of God is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. **John 1:1, In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:14, And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.**
7. The Preserved Word of God is sharp and powerful. **Hebrews 4:12, For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**
8. We have a choice to believe the universe came into existence by God Himself or the option to believe what men tell us.
9. I will go with God.

**d. By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain,...**

1. **Hebrews 11:4, By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.**
2. A careful analysis of this verse will lay to rest once and for all that **man's only approach to God is by faith.**
3. He has laid down this principle in the life of Abel and Cain.
4. The Lord Jesus Christ shed His blood on the cross to atone for the sins of mankind. **Leviticus 17:11, For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.**
5. What God required; God had to provide.
6. Notice, **offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain**, it attests to the righteousness of Abel.
7. Why was Abel considered righteous? Because he obeyed God and he approached him by faith.
8. A bird's eye view of the **Book of Genesis** will reveal some important things. **Genesis 4:1, And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.**

9. In other words, God had indicated very clearly to Eve in **Genesis 3:15**, *And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.* Adam and Eve took for granted that the first boy to be born was the promised one who would bruise the head of satan.
10. Cain turned out not be the line in which the Lord Jesus Christ would come from, but he turned out to be a murderer.
11. **Genesis 4:2**, *And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.* Notice the professions of the two boys.
12. God made it clear they were to bring an offering unto Him at a designated time. **Genesis 4:3**, *And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.*
13. *in process of time* – was at that time God required. Both understood the type of sacrifice they were supposed to bring. **Genesis 4:4-5**, *And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: 5: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wrath, and his countenance fell.*
14. Both were instructed what to bring. A careful analysis will show that Abel brought a lamb, which pointed to the Lord Jesus Christ who would eventually come and take away the sin of the world.
15. **Hebrews 10:4**, *For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.* It was by faith and was pointing to the Lamb of God John the Baptist saw clearly. **John 1:29**, *The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*
16. Abel was pointing to the fact that Christ was coming to eradicate and take away the sin of mankind.
17. It is very hard to conceive in the mind of modern man, in this humanistic society that **what Christ required He had to provide** and that by praying the sinner's **prayer and inviting the Lord Jesus Christ into our heart, all of our sins are forgiving.** **John 1:12**, *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*
18. Notice Abel approached the Lord by faith. He was obedient toward God. Cain on the other hand was disobedient and presented his works, which can never atone for sin. **Titus 3:5**, *Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;* Therefore, we conclude that **in order to obtain salvation it is not what we do but who we are in Christ Jesus.**
19. When man is disobedient, as Cain, his countenance falls.
20. God makes it clear in **Hebrews 9:22**, *And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.*
21. We must come on one basis: by faith. The Lord Jesus Christ is the one who had to pay for the sin debt of mankind. He gives us a brand-new nature, and that nature is the nature of God Himself. It is attained by believing God's promises. **1 John 3:9**, *Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.* **2 Peter**

**1:4, Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.**

22. The new nature is based on a person believing the promises of God. **Romans 10:17, So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**
23. It is impossible to please God in any other way than by faith. **Romans 14:23, And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.**
24. If we do not approach God by faith we are in trouble.
25. This verse teaches us that the way to God is by faith, it points to the Lord Jesus Christ who is the sin bearer for mankind. Failure to believe God's promises with respect to salvation, one must conclude that there will be a lot of so-called good people in hell and a lot of bad people in Heaven.

**e. By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death;...**

1. **Hebrews 11:5, By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.**
2. Enoch demonstrates our walk of faith.
3. God tells us to walk by faith and not by sight. **2 Corinthians 5:7, (For we walk by faith, not by sight;)**
4. Enoch was translated. That means he will not see physical death – a separation of the body and the soul.
5. God translated him; He took him.
6. Notice why God took him. **he had this testimony, that he pleased God.**
7. Enoch is mentioned for the very first time in **Genesis 5:1, This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him; Genesis 5:19-24, And Jared lived after he begat Enoch eight hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: 20: And all the days of Jared were nine hundred sixty and two years: and he died. 21: And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah: 22: And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: 23: And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years: 24: And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.**
8. It indicates after the birth of Methuselah that Enoch walked with God.
9. The Scripture implies that before he might not have walked with God. **And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah**
10. Whatever kind of testimony he had before, now he walks by faith – he wants to please God. **1 Samuel 15:22, And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.**
11. He understood that the sacrifices of animals that were offered were not to take away sin. The Lord Jesus Christ whom Enoch saw in his day would come back to take away the sin of mankind.
12. Notice he did not see physical death.
13. We must not overlook "types" in the Scriptures. I believe that Enoch represents the true church. **Revelation 3:10, Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come**

*upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.*

14. This is a period that God speaks of. We understand that this period is the last seven years of the Tribulation Period.
15. **Daniel 9:24**, *Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.* 483 years have already been fulfilled and there is seven years left.
16. Enoch was taken out before the flood and represents the church. Noah had to go through the flood, but God preserved and protected him. Noah represents the 144,000 that God will seal after the true church is taken out. **Psalms 37:28**, *For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever; but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.*
17. Enoch represents the translation of the church. He was moved from one sphere to another sphere.
18. This "type" is recorded in **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**, *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*
19. We see demonstrated very clearly in Abel that he can show us the way to Christ is faith. The sprinkling of blood, the sacrifice of the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. **1 Peter 1:2**, *Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.* **Hebrews 9:22**, *And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.*
20. Enoch pleased God. To be taken at the rapture, we must please God. **John 6:29**, *Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.*
21. Does it mean we need to be sinless in the flesh? No, remember it is the soul that is saved along with the nature of God Himself. Jesus Christ took care of the sin problem for mankind. We are all conceived in sin. **Psalms 51:5**, *Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.*
22. When we accept Christ as Saviour, we take on His righteousness, His Holiness, and His perfection. It is a testimony we have done what God has told us. **Romans 3:22**, *Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:* **Romans 6:3-4**, *Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4: Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*
23. Man's only approach to God is by faith.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

- a. **There is only one way to Heaven. That is by accepting the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour.** **Proverbs 16:25**, *There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*

- b. **Romans 3:23**, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
- c. **Romans 3:10**, *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*
- d. **Romans 10:9-10**, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
- e. Would you please stand?

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