

HOOK- Ever forget something you were supposed to bring along?

Apprentice forgot boots; friends forgot their kids at Starbucks; Julio Cesar Chavez forgot passport

Some things you just can't leave behind/ forget to bring along

If you're gonna set off on a journey with Jesus, **faith** is essential- you will need it, every step of the way

In Hebrews 11 the point being made is basically this:

Faith is necessary to come to God *INITIALLY* and to walk with Him *CONTINUALLY*

You cannot say, I'll trust you to save me from the weight of sin....

- but I dunno if you can help me when making a big life decision (marriage/ college/ buying car)
- but I dunno if you can help my relationship, when I want to reconcile, but my spouse doesn't
- but I dunno if you can help when I feel like a failure as a mom/ dad/ friend/ person

Faith needs to be like the big 3: "pocket check" before leaving house- phone, wallet, keys...AND faith

The Takeaway- Life with Jesus will *require* that we trust God indubitably

Don't be surprised when life's circumstances put you in a position that you have to have faith

5 Lessons from the 'Legends of the Faith'

V.17-19 ¹⁷By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac. He received the promises and yet he was offering his one and only son, ¹⁸the one to whom it had been said, **Your offspring will be traced through Isaac.** ¹⁹He considered God to be able even to raise someone from the dead; therefore, he received him back, figuratively speaking.

1.Faith is trusting God enough to Obey

✘ Abraham was old with a capital O when God promised to give him many descendants....only prob- no kids!

When he was 100 years old, his son Isaac is born. Finally!

But about 15 years later God asks Abraham to sacrifice Isaac

He was about to do it (Genesis 22) when God intervenes

Here in Hb 11 we get insight into what was going on in Abraham's mind (v.18-19)

▲ God will not likely ask you to sacrifice your children as a test (the real test is NOT killing them!);

But are you willing to obey God whatever no matter what?

Psalm 111:7 ...all his instructions are trustworthy.

What is God asking of you? What is your *Isaac* (the thing that's difficult to give over control)?

Repent of... walk away from... step into.... etc.

Faith is visible in our obedience- the book of James says '*show me your faith by your works*'

Halla- ***"Faith is doing something because you trust the one who told you to do it"***

■ (SHOW PIC 1) @ I5 south ramp turning into the 120 there's '20 MPH' sign - many big rig drivers have not trusted that sign enough to obey and have ended up upside down.....

Ask yourself: **Do I trust God enough to do whatever He asks?**

V.20-22 ²⁰By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. ²¹By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and **he worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.** ²²By faith Joseph, as he was nearing the end of his life, mentioned the exodus of the Israelites and gave instructions concerning his bones.

2.Faith is trusting God today with your tomorrow

- ✘ These men named are the forefathers of what will become the Jewish nation (though they never saw it)
As each one reached the end of his life, it was custom to 'bless' their sons for their future
What each one had in mind when doing so, was the promise God had made to Abraham

- ▲ You may not be able to control everything about tomorrow, but you can control your approach.
What are you stressed about the future? Bills? How your kids will turn out? Ever find love?

In Matthew 6 Jesus would say *"Don't worry about tomorrow, your Father in heaven knows what you need!"*

- (SHOW PIC 2) Angus Buchan was a maize and cattle farmer in south Africa & was also an evangelist; one year, he believed God told him to plant potatoes despite scientists' warnings of a drought. When harvest time came, there was a giant crop of potatoes. (He later wrote a book which was made into a movie)

Ask yourself: **Is my faith in what God can do tomorrow, evident today?**

V.23-26 ²³By faith Moses, after he was born, was hidden by his parents for three months, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they didn't fear the king's edict. ²⁴By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter ²⁵and chose to suffer with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasure of sin. ²⁶For he considered reproach for the sake of Christ to be greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, since he was looking ahead to the reward.

3.Faith is trusting God enough to even suffer

- ✘ Pharaoh ordered a massacre of the Hebrew boys, of which baby Moses barely escaped
You know the story- basket in the river, grows up as son of the daughter of pharaoh
Eventually leads the Israelites out of Egypt, opposing pharaoh & heading into the wilderness
v.26 Moses was willing to suffer for God's cause because he was certain God's reward was worth it

- ▲ Listen closely, having faith means that when you face suffering, you not only put up with it, but you *welcome* it as part of God's greater plan
It's one thing to say '*I trust you Lord*' when the doctor gave you good news, it's another to say it when you might lose the baby, when the treatment may not work, when they still file for divorce

- (SHOW PIC 3) Clyde lost 4 loved ones within a year and then landed in prolonged hospital stay himself. I visit with him weekly, in a room he shares with 2 others. I always think its my job to go encourage him... but I found he's not easily discouraged. Here's what he said, "*Pastor, THIS is my ministry for now*".

Ask yourself: **Does my trust in God leave room for unexplained suffering?**

V.27-29 ²⁷ By faith he left Egypt behind, not being afraid of the king's anger, for Moses persevered as one who sees him who is invisible. ²⁸ By faith he instituted the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn might not touch the Israelites. ²⁹ By faith they crossed the Red Sea as though they were on dry land. When the Egyptians attempted to do this, they were drowned.

4. Faith is trusting that where God guides God provides

- ✘ -When God told Moses to go stand in front of Pharaoh Moses had to trust He wouldn't get killed;
- When God said the destroyer was gonna sweep the land and kill every 1st born, he had to trust that the blood of lambs smeared on their doorposts would be enough to spare them that night;
- When God told them to leave Egypt, but then they got to the shore of the Red Sea and had the pursuing Egyptian army behind them, he had to trust that God would open a way...and then that it would remain open for them...and not for the Egyptians

Even when Moses couldn't see the path ahead, He could see God guiding & providing (v.27b)

- ▲ If God is leading you somewhere, or asking you to do something, He will make sure you have what you need to carry it out (2 Peter 1:3 He's given us all we need for life & godliness).
Maybe you were led to witness to someone; maybe you have warrants and were led to turn yourself in; maybe God's leading you into a new career; maybe He granted you the house, or the children, or the job, but now you're just tired and feeling depleted.

Where God guides, God provides.

- The Merge- one church needed young people, the other needed a space...look at us now!

Ask yourself: **Do I have faith that God will supply what I need to do what He wants?**

V.30-39 ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after being marched around by the Israelites for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute welcomed the spies in peace and didn't perish with those who disobeyed. ³² And what more can I say? Time is too short for me to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets, ³³ who by faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the raging of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, gained strength in weakness, became mighty in battle, and put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received their dead, raised to life again. Other people were tortured, not accepting release, so that they might gain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Others experienced mockings and scourgings, as well as bonds and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawed in two, they died by the sword, they wandered about in sheepskins, in goatskins, destitute, afflicted, and mistreated. ³⁸ The world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and on mountains, hiding in caves and holes in the ground. ³⁹ All these were approved through their faith, but they did not receive what was promised,

5. Faith is trusting God with the consequences despite the circumstances

- ✘ What we just read are examples of people who faced impossibles odds, of people with who had long obedience, people who were in the grit and grind of life, whose lives were even at stake, and it tells us, it didn't always work out too well for them!!!

Why would anyone willingly endure all these things?!? FAITH.

These people **acted** by faith and were **approved** through faith (v.39)

A You have to understand that faith isn't some vague construct, some cosmic force in the stratosphere; faith is the fabric on which a relationship between God and mankind is woven
we act in faith; we're approved through faith

Faith gives the soul the resilience to know that
even they can't find a cure for me, God has a new body waiting for me that's cancer-proof
even if I lose the job or the house, the life savings, God still takes care of me
even if I don't see a way out of this situation, God can make a way through it
Faith means that I will do the right thing even when it's not the easy thing
I will stand for my values even when everyone else buckles under the cultures;
I will trust the leading of the Spirit even when it costs me

■ ■ (SHOW PIC 4) Perhaps the greatest example of this I have seen in my life (*trusting God with the consequences despite the circumstances*), has been my dad:

In his first marriage, 2 kids in finds out his wife had been having a 2-year long affair. "*It felt like dying*"
Eventually marries again to a woman madly in love w/him (my mom)...but she dies after a grueling 4-year battle with cancer.

The day of her memorial service the place was so crowded many couldn't get inside; it started to rain and then pour violently. It was a miserable day. When it was all over, we came outside to find a rainbow, and my dad stared to worship.

Ask yourself: **Do I have trust God enough to know whatever I go through is worth it?**

Hebrews 11 is known as the hall of fame of faith. They were ordinary people.

And ultimately, their faith joins with ours in the person of Jesus-

V.40 ⁴⁰since God had provided something better for us, so that they would not be made perfect without us.

Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment of every promise we've longed for

Since this world is *fallen*, get used to putting your *faith* in God
Since this life is full of *troubles*, get used to putting your *trust* God
Since people are *corrupt*, get used to putting your *confidence* in God

The Takeaway- Life with Jesus will require that we trust God indubitably

You can't set off with Jesus, or continue on with Him, without faith

Being put into a position in which you have to have faith, is the default posture of Jesus followers-

It's normal, it's part of the package (*Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart...*)

Invitation-

**If you have trusted in God for something as eternal as your salvation,
then you can trust Him with something as momentary as your situation**

If you're not-yet a follower of Jesus-

**If you are at a point in which you have enough faith to believe God made you,
Take the next step and believe God wants to save you**

BULPEN-

Faith is believing God enough to obey Him

Faith is like a coin that has two sides. On one side is assurance. On the other expectation. (Heb 11:1)

Often Jesus would tell the disciples “you of little faith”- to which they responded “increase our faith”

Ephesians 6:16

Every NO to God is a yes to self or satan

We don't obey because we think we'll miss out-

Jesus doesn't ask of you something he never did-

As with Abraham and Isaac, he received and yet he offered, and received back
(foreshadowing Christ)

Step 1 Studying the Text:

- **What does it say?**
 - The people of the Bible were *confident* that God had control of everything, even when everything was beyond their control
- **What does it mean?**
 - Faith is an essential element of a relationship with God
- **How is the Gospel related to this text?**
 - We are saved by *grace through* faith; faith is indispensable to our redemption
- **How does it apply to life today?**
 - Faith is necessary to come to God initially and to walk with Him continually

Step 2 Unify the Redemptive Theme:

- **Main Point of the Text:**
 - The people of the bible *acted* by faith in God and were *approved* through faith in God
- **Main Point of the Sermon:**
 - Life with Jesus will require that we trust God indubitably
- **Title that reflects the MPS:**
 - Faith Full

Step 3 & 4 Outline the text & Develop Functional Elements:

- Point 1- Faith is trusting God enough to Obey (V17-19)
 - Explanation:
 - Application:
 - Illustration:
- Point 2- Faith is trusting God today with tomorrow (V20-22)
 - Explanation:
 - Application:
 - Illustration:
- Point 3- Faith is trusting God enough to Suffer (V23-26)
 - Explanation:
 - Application:
 - Illustration:
- Point 4- Faith is trusting that where God guides God provides (V27-29)
 - Explanation:
 - Application:
 - Illustration:
- Point 5- Faith is trusting God with the consequences despite the circumstances (V30-39)
 - Explanation:
 - Application:
 - Illustration:

Step 5 Intro & Outro:

- Intro:
- Outro: (V39-40) it's our turn
 - If you can trust God with your salvation, you can trust Him with your situation