

Title: An Understanding of Faith (Part 2)
Text: Hebrews 11:2-3

Take your Bibles, please, and turn with me to the book of Hebrews. The book of Hebrews chapter 11. This 11th chapter is often referred to as the "Hall of Fame" in the Bible. It deals with the heroes of the faith. It gives us examples to follow in understanding the principles of faith.

Hebrews chapter 11, reading verses 1 thru 3.

(Read Hebrews 11:1-3)

Prayer

Now, *(an last time together)* ~~(last Sunday)~~ we began by defining the word "Faith." And we learned that FAITH IS AN INTELLECTUAL AGREEMENT TO A SET OF FACTS.

Secondly, FAITH IS A DEFINITE RESPONSE BASED UPON A NEED. ..AND

Third, FAITH IS A COMMITMENT ON MY PART BASED UPON A DECISION THAT I WILL MAKE.

(in One last time together)
Then we began look at Hebrews chapter 11 verse 1-3. And in these verses we have an explanation of faith. This is not a definition of faith. But, a description of what faith actually does. *(10)* And we saw ^{first of all} that this explanation of faith is based upon the work of faith. To explain faith is to see how it works.

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(2D) ^{now, secondly (23)} this explanation of faith is not only based upon the work of faith, but it is , also, according to Vs 2, based upon the witness of the elders.

What is this referring to? Vs 2 says "By it...referring to faith..." by faith the ~~elders~~ ^{men of old gained approval} ~~gained a good report~~ "

Now, the little phrase "gained ~~a good report~~ ^{approval}" simply means "they were testified to." It doesn't mean that they stood up and gave their own testimon. It means that in the realm of faith these men were testified to..A witness was given towards them. Not, they towards someone else.

^{So} O.K. WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT? The ~~men~~ ^{men of old} are all the people mentioned in Hebrews 11. This great hall of fame. These famous ancestors. And according to the Bible, their faith was giving a witness to their spiritual leadership as elders. WHY WERE THESE MEN CHOSEN? Because they were ourstanding spiritual leaders and examples of faith.

O.K. HOW DO YOU KNOW THEY WERE? Because of their faith, you see. Their faith was testifying to the kind of people they were.

This is important because we read in Hebrews chapter 13:7 that we are to "remember those who led you, who spoke the Word of God to you; and consider the outcome of their way of life, imitate their faith."

And the simple point is that we learn about "faith" when we observe it in the life of someone else. Therefore, we have Hebrews 11 constructed as it is: By faith Abel....By faith Enock...by faith Noah...by faith Abraham,so fort

You see, faith was witnessing to these men that they were truely men of faith. You say.."Isn't that double talk"? You mean.."Faith witnesses to these men that they had faith?...YES..THAT IS WHAT IT SAYS.

Well, then, what is it, that is faith, that is witnessing to these men ^{men} that they had faith?....(ARE YOU STILL WITH ME?)

ANSWER: They acturally did something that was observable that showed us that they had faith.....And that, my dear friends, is the key that unlocks Hebrews chapter 11.

You see, each of these men mention here in Hebrews 11 did something that was observable. And thus proved that they really were men of faith. { And the same thing is true about all of us. We learn best about faith when we observe it in the life of others. You say you have faith! WELL! LET'S SEE THE RESULTS

You see, in each case in Hebrews 11, these men that are mentioned, all did something that proved that they were truly men of faith. And their acts witnessed to their faith. That is the meaning of Vs 2.

^{3c}
(3D) Now, the third thing that the explanation of faith is based upon is that faith is based upon the Word of God.

Vs 3 : "By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the Word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible."

Now, according to Vs 3, there are two things that are effected by the Word of God. ¹⁰
(1E) Number one: the Word of God will effect our ability to understand.

Some of you have said, perhaps more times than you would care to admit. But you have said: "I just can't understand the Bible. I just can't understand all that the christian life entails."

Well, according to the Bible it is through faith that we understand. And that faith is based upon the Word of God. The Word of God, therefore, begins to effect our ability to understand. But, it is by faith that we are literally understanding. And the word "understand" means "mind." With your mind, you all of a sudden start to understand what God says. And it is by means of the principle of faith.

But the thing that we need to remember is: that faith is based upon the Word of God. The Word of God in turn gives you back the faith to believe what the Word of God says.

And that, dear friends, is a tremendous concept to apply to your life.

When you say: I have got to have faith in order to believe the Bible, you are not talking about your faith...Why? Because "faith" must always have an object. And the object is the Bible..The Bible teaches that when you believe it and accept it as the authority, the Bible returns the favor to you by giving you the Faith to believe in what it says.

It is amazing...Of course that is why we need to read and study the Bible. Can you not understand why it is important to believe that the Bible is the Word of God. If you do not believe that, you will be a person of little or no faith. *I guarantee it*

Because, you see, you must begin with the principle that the Bible is the Word of God. And as you believe that this is God's Word, and what it says is right, even if you don't understand it at first, that faith rewards you as you continue to grow and to believe that it is God's Word, and God rewards you by giving you more faith.

And I just challenge you, if you will begin to believe that this is God's marvious Word, and that everything it says is the truth, and as you begin to accept it, the Word of God will reward your life by giving you the faith to believe that very things you said at the beginning you couldn't understand.. I know that is true. It has happened over, and over, and over, again in my life. And that is a wonderful promise.

~~It means of that we are even understanding~~

(2E) Now, the second thing that is affected. The Word of God affects our ability to understand. And secondly, it affects our acceptance of the things that are mentioned in ^{the Bible} God's Word. And there are really two ideas here in Vs 3. Two things that are very difficult to accept. And I don't know of two things that are more difficult to accept..

And the Bible teaches that the Word of God and our faith in it, will affect our acceptance of things that are mentioned in God's Word that usually people willn't accept.

only You know what the two things are? Let me give them to you and then I will explain them.

1st (1st) First is Creation...

(2nd) Secondly, is God's control of all things.

Both are in Vs 3. God's creations as well as His control over all things. And I ~~don't~~ know ~~of~~ two things that are more difficult to accept.

Vs 3 The text says: "By faith we understand that ~~the~~ worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible."

only A couple of things you should know as we persue this thought. First of all the word "WORD." The word "word" in Greek means "the spoken word". There is also a word that can refer to "that which is written." But not here. It is the spoken word. ~~is~~

We understand that by God just speaking, Bang..it happens.... What is the christian view of the creation of all things. The Christian view is: first of all..that there was a being who existed, he always did, he had not beginning or end, who all of a sudden says: "LET'S HAVE IT AND IT JUST HAPPENED.".....THAT IS THE CHRISTIAN VIEW....And I tell you that that takes faith to believe that.

However, I do ~~whole~~ that it takes more faith to believe the alturnivities views. But it does take faith to believe creation.

only That there was a being who I have never seen. ~~why~~ he existed. And always has existed. He never had a beginning. And he will never have an end. He has always existed and he is here, even though I have never seen Him. And He just spoke and it happened.....He just said "let there be light and there was light." He said, "let's have land, and there was land." Let's have water and there was water. Let's have animals and there were animals. He just said it and it happened....Bang...

nut Now, I tell you that it is through Faith that we understand....Isn't that fantastic....I believe in that.....I really do....

Now, there are a lot of people who think I am absolutely nuts for believing ~~that~~ *Wester*....But, I believe ~~that~~ *it*...

There is a being whom I have never seen, and he has existed always and never had a start. And he said, "let it happen, and it happened."

I believe that....HOW?.....The Word of God has given ~~me~~ the faith to believe it. HOW ELSE...And it is fantastic....

Another little word that I found interesting is the little word "framed"..That is the same word often translated "equipped" or "prepared." Christians are to be equipped by Pastor-teachers - Eph 4:12 "same word"....

What is the idea?...God organized, God constructed and operates the worlds...by his spoken word....

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This brings me to the word "worlds". The word "worlds" in Greek is the word "ages"....~~And~~ And it does not refer to the planetary bodies. Most people when they read Vs 3 they think of the planets, such as Mars, or the moon, or some other planet in the solar system. But that is not right. It is the word "ages".....Referring to the "ages of time."

Here is the point: The ages of time were orderly established, arranged, and operated by the spoken word of God....So that the things we now see in the world have never ~~come~~ out of the things that are ~~now~~ *Now* appearing.

Let me explain.....In Washington D.C. there is a white house..Right... And there have been some results of actions taken in the White House in our nation. So these results might be enormous...Such as:they decided to build cities one day. And there are cities...

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Now, the things that appear to my eyes are...CITIES...And so I say, Therefore because there are cities that it had to be a decision made by what already existed, namely the White House.

But, of course, if I keep going back, I must ask myself: "What about the White House?" Well, that was a decision made by somebody who decided to build it... Maybe I meet him and I know him. But, where did he get that. And, then you keep going all the way back.

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The point is: that the Bible is saying that all the sequence of events that have happen through all of time do not flow out of the things that appear to us, such as men's actions and decisions, but all of time that is unfolding is coming out of the spoken word of God.....

And the Bible remains us that all the way down to animals and birds, even the weather, and events.. God sets up kings and takes them down.. No matter what you can name... Every event of human history is being controlled by God.. NOW, I TELL YOU THAT... THAT IS ALSO HARDD TO BELIEVE.....

The Bible says in Romans 11:36: that all things come out of Him and are operating through Him and shall be unto Him. All things...

Romans 8:28 says that all things are working together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

And I say to you again, THAT REQUIRES A GREAT DEAL OF FAITH. "RIGHT"...

For example: Did you know that God knew that everyone of you would come here ^{Today} tonight?... A long time ago he knew you would be here... He knows all about you. He even knows what you are going to have for ^{Dinner} breakfast. I don't think he cares, but he knows.. He knows all things. And he is controlling all time... He knows exactly what is going to happen ^{tomorrow} today, and ^{the next day} tomorrow and forever in your life and mine. He knows everthing.

And it is kind-off funny... You think you can lick this thing. You know, you don't believe it is quite true, see.... So, you get up tomorrow mornigng and say: "God, thinks I am going to eat breakfast. I am going to fool him and not eat it... right..." How foolish we are, you see... He even knows our reasoning, says the Bible... He knows the thoughts and motivations of our heart that we don't even know... He knows us better than we know ourselves....

And isn't kind-of funny sometimes, to realize that we are trying to handle our circumstances and problems..and here is the eternal God...Who knows all things...controls all things...tells us so...

* You know, why don't we just relax...Just relax and say: "Ghee Lord, its great to be on the winning team...I tell you..just to have peace in your heart...Everything is happening according to schedule. And the peace of God will keep our hearts and minds through Jesus Christ.

This ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~not~~

-GREAT

Nothing happens by accident or luck..All is being worked out by an eternal God...AND I TELL YOU THAT TAKES FAITH...NOW, HOW DO I GET THAT FAITH.....ANSWER AGAIN:...When I begin to accept it as God's Word..And my faith has an object..namely the ~~Book~~ ^{Bible}..The ~~Book~~ ^{Bible} rewards me with the Faith to believe that the things it acturally says are true. I now believe in creation..I now believe in the resurrection.. I now believe that God is controlling all things..And I find that this Book is continuing to affect my mind. Things that I think just couldn't be true, and the more I trust the Word of God, the Word of God rewards me by affecting my mind to ~~believe~~ believe it... *Result. I find they are true (PHASE)*

I Now Believe my sins are forgiven

I like this ~~phase~~ ^{phase}, even though some do not..But, I like to be brain washed by the Bible because the positive results in my life have been fantastic.....I want to be brain washed by this book....I want this book to be so inoporated into my ~~brain~~ brain that I eat, drink, and think its principles.. [And I believe in this because I believe the Word of God will reward you when you agree that this book is the Word of God. It will reward you and bring you ~~the~~ faith. And that faith will stand under you and support you, of the things that you are hoping for in the furture; and it will also be the means ~~to~~ of proof to you of the present realities you are now experiencing in Christ. And this is fantastic.. As far as I am concerned, and I hope you are too...

Shall We Close with a Word of Prayer

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