

Tonight, we continue working through the book of Hebrews... There is one thread that drives the entire book – **JESUS IS GREATER!** This entire book is all about helping us learn more about Jesus... and how to live in light of who he is and what he is doing... So far, Jesus is greater than all of these OT things because he brought about a greater covenant built on him... what he did... his obedience... his perfection... his death... resurrection!

Tonight, the question is ***will you have faith in him?***

This whole section points to those who had faith in Christ...

The entire chapter 11 is called the “Hall of Faith...”

We here of people being inducted into the Hall of Fame for sports... acting... their ability to plan an instrument...

This Hall of Faith is different, it’s reserved for those who have left their mark on history because of their faith in Christ...

Not because of their awesomeness... but their faith in God!

So, tonight – the author of Hebrews is telling us...

MAIN: GOD HAS BEEN FAITHFUL AND STILL IS! READ: *HEBREWS 11:1-3*

FIVE TRUTHS WE LEARN FROM WALKING THE HALL OF FAITH...

1. FAITH IS BELIEVING, NOT SEEING...

Faith is not faith unless it is in something that you can’t physically see or touch...

This is exactly what the author of Hebrews is talking about in **v1-2**...

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen...

Faith is kind of a weird thing... you all had faith that those **chairs** your sitting in would hold you... You had faith the **car** you drove or rode here in wouldn’t blow up... you had faith that you wouldn’t go **hungry** today...

You have faith in these things because they have proven themselves before...

This is exactly what the author of Hebrews is doing... he is painting a picture of why and how we should have faith... God has been faithful, and he will continue to be faithful regardless of what we face!

He does this by listing a bunch of people that those who read this letter would know...

His point is that these people did not experience all that God would do... yet they believed and walked out their faith!

- **Abel** offered an acceptable sacrifice by faith...
- **Enoch** pleased God by faith...
- **Noah** trusted God more than man by faith...
- **Abraham** was obedient by faith...
- **Sarah** trusted God over herself by faith...
- **Abraham** was tested and was faithful...
- **Isaac** blessed his sons in faith...
- **Jacob** blessed the sons of Joseph at his death by faith...
- **Joseph** focused on the exodus in faith...
- **Moses** chose to be the people of God through faith...
- **God’s** people crossed the Red Sea & Jericho walls fell by faith
- **Rahab** the prostitute was friendly to the spies in faith...

Read 32-38...

This is what it looks like to believe in what you can’t see...

(13) They were faithful to God even though they didn’t get everything promised right then...

They died not getting to truly see their faith become sight...

This is actually the reward we get when we do die... we get to see with our own eyes what we have believed in...

TBH... some people think faith is foolish... but it seems to these people, who gave all that they were... there was nothing greater they could give themselves to...

Paul says in **2 Cor. 5:7** – *we walk by faith and not by sight...*

2. THIS IS NOT OUR HOME...

This sounds kind of weird doesn’t it?

This weekend Lay and I went to pick some stuff up at her sister’s... we stayed for a few days and when I would go to bed, or get up and get ready I felt like this is not my home... I didn’t have the stuff I needed that I am used to... my daily routine was not the same because I wasn’t home... things were the way they were supposed to be!

I bet you have felt this way in your walk with Christ... broken something you’ve seen or done... upset because an injustice was done... saddened by the death of some... hurt because you know of people suffering...

You think to yourself... ***this is not the way things are supposed to be...***

You feel this way because... ***this is not your home...***

(13-16) they felt like they were ***strangers and exiles on earth...*** they were longing for something greater... ***a better country, that is a heavenly one...***

You feel like you don't fit in... you don't belong because you don't... you were made for more...

Building 429 has a song that says:

All I know is I'm not home yet

This is not where I belong

Take this world and give me Jesus

This is not where I belong

The things that break your heart... the things that make you sad and even made do so because you were made **for heaven and not here...**

The good part of this is that one day you will be where you belong... Your faith will be sight one day...

(16) Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

3. FAITH IS NOT EASY...

Ha... you don't need me to tell you this... and the Hebrew folks would have probably said no duh...

But sometimes we need a reminder that our faith-journey... our walk with Christ was never promised to be easy... actually the opposite...

Jesus tells us that in John 16:33 that we would have **tribulation in this world... but he overcame it...**

We see this throughout the entire Bible!

Listen again to some of the sufferings of the people of God...

(32-38) Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

Man... that's some real stuff...

That's why Jesus tells us that those that suffer on account of their faith in him are **blessed** in the SOM...

In some ways this makes Andrew Toney's troubles seem smaller... they don't go away but they are put into perspective...

That doesn't mean Jesus doesn't care about your seemingly small problems... no he does!

We get this... but sometimes I need someone to slap me in the face and say... Andrew, no one said this would be easy...

This fourth thing is true though...

4. GOD IS FAITHFUL...

One of the most glaring points of the Hall of Faith is that **God is faithful...**

The simple truth is this... God was faithful to those we just named, and he will be faithful **to you...**

I'm reading a book right now on how the early church lived out their faith in the midst of the seemingly the most horrid time to be a Christian... and it seems that over and over and over again what got Christians through suffering and even through death was not their strength... their friends... **it was their faith in God...** they knew God had been faithful and that he would continue to be faithful to them...

This is what drives us... **God's faithfulness to us!**

5. WE ARE NOT ALONE...

You're not alone in this world... you may think it... you may even feel it... but you're not.

Look at **(12:1-2)**

We are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses... meaning there have been those in the faith who have come before us and will go after us...

But maybe even more than these people... God has provided something better for us **(39-40...)**

That something is **JESUS...** our faith is based on and built on him... and it is through him that we are **perfected...**

We are to fix our eyes on him!

*****SO... WHAT DO WE DO WITH ALL THIS...** This whole section is meant to **encourage us in our faith...**

A few things...

- **Be encouraged...** don't give up... God is working... he is faithful...
- **Be okay with not belonging here and live out your faith...** suffering well... trusting when you don't see!
- **Know that you're not alone...** the faithful have come before you and will come after you... but even more they are around you... just because you don't fit in doesn't mean you don't fit somewhere...
- **Be this example for someone else...** you need these examples and someone else does too!