

Faith Perfected

Hebrews Chapter 11

Without Faith ...

- It's impossible to:
 - Please God. Hebrews 11:6
 - Be saved. James 2:14
- Pleasing and saving faith is a whole or complete – perfected – faith. James 2:22.
- “Perfected” – means to complete, “add what is lacking in order to render a thing full” (Thayer)
- What is lacking in our faith?
1 Thessalonians 3:10

Perfected Faith starts with ...

- **Hebrews 11:1** – *“Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”* 2 Peter 1:5.
- **It has to begin with God's word!** Romans 10:17
- **The role of teaching ...** Acts 8:4, 12, 30-31; (note Acts 4:18); 2 Timothy 2:24; Proverbs 9:9

Hebrews Chapter 11

What made the faith of the men and women discussed in Hebrews 11 pleasing to God and “perfected”?

Perfected Faith must include

- **Spiritual Vision**
 - Faith is the “**conviction of things not seen**” ... with human eyes. (verse 1)
 - The ability to “**look at the things which are not seen**” (2 Corinthians 4:17-18)
 - Can we see the “imperishable” wreath or crown? (1 Corinthians 9:25)

Perfected Faith must include

- **The examples in Hebrews Chapter 11 all had Spiritual Vision.**

Hebrews 11:13-16 – “All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but **having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance**, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ¹⁴ For those who say such things make it clear that they are **seeking a country of their own**. ¹⁵ And indeed if they had been thinking of that from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, **they desire a better**, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for **He has prepared a city for them.**”

Perfected Faith must include

•**Spiritual Vision.**

Examples include:

Verse 7 – Noah

Verses 8 -10 – Abraham (John 8:56)

Verse 26 – Moses

Verses 32-33 – not enough time to tell everyone’s story of faith & spiritual vision.

Matthew 13:10-17 – the OT fathers and prophets long to see the fulfillment of God’s promises

Perfected Faith must include

•**Spiritual Vision.**

We need the ability to see with the eyes of our heart the realization of God’s promises.

*“I pray that **the eyes of your heart may be enlightened**, so that you may know what is **the hope of His calling**, what are **the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints**, and what is **the surpassing greatness of His power** toward us who believe.”*

Perfected Faith must include

•**Action.**

•**Perfected faith demands that we act based on our convictions and spiritual vision.**

•**Will we act if we don’t see the reality of what God has promised?**

Perfected Faith must include

•**Action.**

•**Note the pattern:**

• Verse 4 – Abel offered

• Verse 7 – Noah built/prepared

• Verse 8 – Abraham went

• Verse 17 – Abraham offered

• Verse 28 – Moses sprinkled

• Verse 29 – The Israelites crossed

• Verse 30 – Joshua led the march

• Verses 32-33 – “time will fail me ...” to mention all who “performed acts of righteousness”

Perfected Faith must include

•**Action.**

•**Other examples:**

• Naaman in 2 Kings 5:8-14 and the man born blind in John 9:1-12

• **Not enough to will or to wish to act. Romans 7:18-19**

• **Must be a man or woman of action – James 1:21-26; Matthew 7:21-23**

Perfected Faith must include

•**Endurance.**

•**We won’t endure for that which:**

• We don’t have the vision to see as real

• We aren’t willing to personally invest ourselves in through our actions.

• **Hebrews 11:32-40 – they gained approval through their endurance.**

• **Endurance is the proof of our perfected faith. 1 Peter 1:6-7 – note the conclusion in Hebrews 12:1-2. (Hebrews 10:32-39; Luke 21:16-19)**

• **Christians are those who remain “true to the Lord” (Acts 11:23)**