



## THE FAITH CHAPTER

### Hebrews 11

This chapter in Hebrews is typically known to us as the faith chapter. It is given this title for good reason since the word *faith* occurs 24 times in the text. The writer of Hebrews defined the word so the readers would know what he meant. “Faith is the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen.” Basically, faith is knowing that God will do what He says He will do based on His track record. Nowhere in Scripture do we ever find God going back on His word. God is always faithful, and because of His faithfulness, we can live by faith.

Consider major inventions that are around us today. All of those inventions came from something unseen. Nobody had the first smartphone to use as an example to make a smartphone. The creator saw the finished product in his mind and then built it. Faith as defined in this chapter is similar. Each person named in the “hall of faith” trusted and obeyed God without ever seeing what the end would be. Abel “in his faith” offered to God a sacrifice. Abel’s sacrifice wasn’t “better” because it was made of meat; it was better because Abel approached God with unfiltered faith. Enoch, because of his faith, was taken to heaven without seeing death. Noah built a large boat because, even though he couldn’t fathom the rain event God was describing, he knew God to be faithful.

Abraham picked up all of his belongings, his family, and his cattle and went to a place he had likely never seen or heard of. By faith, Sarah gave birth to a son through whom God promised to bless all people. God tested Abraham, and through faith, even though Isaac was the son of promise, Abraham trusted God’s faithfulness. Isaac blessed his sons. Jacob blessed the sons of Joseph. Moses came to faithfully rescue the inhabitants of Israel in slavery in Egypt. Countless other examples come from Scripture. Our faith in God honors God and allows us to live lives of faith because God is indeed faithful. These examples of faith give us confidence to faithfully serve God as He has proved Himself faithful.