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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Hebrews 3:6-19
Lesson #9
Abiding Faith
03/03/2024

1

The majesty of Christ

HEBREWS

3:6-19
Abiding Faith
(How can we enter God's promised land?)

2

HEBREWS

The Glory of Christianity

<i>The glory of the person of Christ</i>	<i>The glory of the people of Christ</i>
Prophet	Apostle / High Priest
1-2	3-4 / 5-10 / 11-13

The Focus of our Faith
The glory of the person of Christ


Jesus was FAITHFUL to his calling and contribution to God's plan.	We must now also be FAITHFUL to our calling to abide.
1 - 2	3 - 4

3

Hebrews 3:6

“but Christ was **faithful** as a Son over His house whose house we are, **if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.**”

Are we “the house” of God in Christ ONLY IF we maintain our faith?


What is really at stake in our faith?  **Can a believer lose faith and with it salvation?**

4

Hebrews 3

“⁷ Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, “*Today if you hear His voice, ⁸ do not harden your hearts as when they provoked Me, as in the day of trial in the wilderness, ⁹ where your fathers tried Me by testing Me, and saw My works for forty years. ¹⁰ Therefore I was angry with this generation, and said, ‘They always go astray in their heart; and they did not know My ways’; ¹¹ as I swore in My wrath, ‘They shall not enter My rest’”*

Israel was saved out of Egypt
but many did not have faith to enter the Promised Land.



5

Challenges to Israel's faith.


1. False expectations (Ex.16)

Exodus 16:3 (17:3)

“The sons of Israel said to them, “If only we had died by the Lord's hand in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat, when we ate bread until *we were* full; for **you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this entire assembly with hunger!**””

John 10:10

“The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have it **abundantly.**”



6

2. Short memory (Num.14)

Numbers 14

“22 Certainly all the people who **have seen My glory and My signs which I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness**, yet have put Me to the test these ten times and have not listened to My voice, 23 shall by no means see the land which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who were disrespectful to Me see it.”



Luke 22:19

“This is my body which is given for you; do this in **remembrance** of me.”



7

Hebrews 3

“12 Take care, brethren, lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living God. 13 But **encourage one another day after day, as long as it still called “Today,”** lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end; 15 while it is said, “*Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts, as when they provoked Me.*”

Abiding faith is a community challenge.

8

3. Misplaced hope (Ex.32)

The Golden Calf has become a Wall street Bull and an American Sacred Cow. **baptized into the church.**



9

4. Fear of the promised land (Num.13)

Numbers 13

“27 And they told him, “We came to the land to which you sent us. It flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. 28 **However, the people who dwell in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large.** And besides, we saw the descendants of Anak there.”



Psalms 23:4

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, **I will fear no evil**, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”

10

America's mine fields for faith distortion / destruction.

- **THE TEMPTATION OF CHRIST** - Use faith to get material comfort, dramatic signs, and political power. *Like Jesus, just say NO! NO! NO!*
- **EXPECTATIONS** - Unrealistic and misplaced hopes are faith killers.
- **MINORS** - that become MAJORS. *Diversity breaks down idols and strengthens faith in Christ.*
- **INDEPENDENCE** - Confusing American culture with the Kingdom of God.
- **OLD COVENANT** - Emphasizing O.C. themes & perspectives - temporal, material, blessing.

11

Galatians 3

“2 This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? 3 Are you so foolish? **Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?**”

Justification before God is by faith “in Christ” (the Word of the Cross).



Entering God's “rest” in this life is also by faith (the Way of the Cross).

12

Galatians 3

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Egypt Exodus Pilgrimage Promised land



13

Hebrews 3

“16 For who provoked Him when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt **led by Moses?** 17 And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? 18 And to whom did He swear that they should not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? 19 And so we see that **they were not able to enter because of unbelief.**”

Christian life is first a faith issue, not an ethics issue.

14

Is faith a gift from God?

The **Image of God** in every human includes:

The issue is **faith** presuppositions, the **object and subject** of the faith. **visionary** longings, **critical** reasoning, **moral** impulses.



Is **saving faith** a gift from God? It is **NOT** treated **that way** in Scripture.

15

Everyone believes IN SOMETHING.

Eve in Genesis 3:6

“When the woman **saw that the tree was** good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate;”

Gentiles in Romans 1:25

“For they **exchanged the truth of God for a lie**, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.”

16

Ephesians 2:8-9

“we are saved by grace through **faith** and **that** not of yourselves, **it** is the **gift of God** not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

- The “gift of God” refers to **salvation not faith as in Rom.6:23** “but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
- The Greek “that” (**neuter**) does not link to “faith” (**feminine**) making it likely that the whole of salvation is in view rather than “faith”.

Interpretive paraphrase:

“Salvation is God’s gift of grace, received through faith not works.”

17

Are faith and works inseparable?

James 2:20

“But are you willing to recognize, you fool, that faith without works is useless.”

Only God knows the heart of a person but we get a hint of the object of a person’s faith by observing how they behave.

If a person really believes it is cold outside it will be seen in the way they dress **not vice versa.**

18

That which is of use in saving us in this life.

That which justifies before man.

James & John

Fruit Foliage

Faith

That which saves us in the life to come.

That which justifies before God.

Paul & Peter

19

Legal position

Our hope and direction in life is the sign of saving faith

Hope in Christ

Perfect obedience is not the issue.

Life experience

Holiness

Time

20

Signs of the faith that gets us to God's Rest

Response
- to life's ups & downs with peace & wisdom.

Expectations
- that are kingdom centered.

Serenity
- that does not whine about the past, and worry about the future as it worships while it works.

Thankfulness
- that exudes joy without fear.

21

Hebrews

Next week
4:1-13

Entering His Rest

22