





LIVE BY FAITH

In the prophesy of Habakkuk, the prophet pours out his confusion to God as he fails to see any evidence that God is at work, or even listening to his prayers. God speaks to him, reassuring him that He is indeed working, but that Habakkuk could not even begin to imagine the events that would soon unfold in God's sovereign plan. Habakkuk acknowledges that the just person must learn to live by faith. So what is faith? And when life is confusing and God seems distant, how do we keep living by faith?

READ Hebrews 11: 1-3, 6 and mark "faith" with a  and the word "seen" with a 

How is faith described in verse one?

What do the words "assurance" and "conviction" indicate?



What is the relationship between faith and seeing?

In v6 what is impossible?

What two things must we believe as we draw near to God?

Why do you think these two things are important?

In Hebrews 11 we are introduced to a number of people who demonstrated faith in various ways. Let's look at 2 of them. Note the 3 different Greek words translated "consider".

READ Hebrews 11:8-13 and mark faith with a  and mark the word "considered" with a 

How did Abraham demonstrate his faith and how does it relate to the definition of faith in Hebrews 11:1?

How would believing that God exists and rewards those who seek Him have been important to Abraham?

How did Sarah receive power to conceive? What did she consider?

Consider—Strong's 2233—to lead out before the mind

How did the focus of Sarah's thoughts impact on her ability to exercise faith? What was the outcome?

What can we learn from her example?

Hebrews 11:1-3, 6

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² For by it the people of old received their commendation. ³ By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Hebrews 11: 8-13

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. ¹¹ By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore. ¹³ These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

Hebrews 11:17-19

¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, ¹⁸ of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." ¹⁹ He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

Hebrews 11:24-26

²⁴ By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. ²⁶ He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.

Hebrews 12: 1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

³ Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or faint-hearted.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Continue to mark faith with  a and mark "considered" with a 

READ Hebrews 11:17-19

In what way is Abraham acting in faith?

Consider—Strong's 3049 —to be occupied with calculations.

What "calculations" did Abraham have to make?

What "calculations" are involved in a life of faith?

READ Hebrews 11:24-26

The word for considered here is the same as v11

How does Moses demonstrate faith? How does this tie in with what you saw in v1 and v6?

What thoughts led his thinking and actions?

How can we learn from his example?

READ Hebrews 12:1-4 Mark words as above and underline the words "let us.."

In light of what has gone before, what two things are we exhorted to do?

How does Jesus demonstrate faith?

Consider—Strong's 357 —to consider accurately again & again

How can our focus on Him help us?

READ 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 and mark the words seen and unseen with a

How do these verses tie in with Hebrews 1:1 and also with what you have learned about faith?