

HEBREWS Chapter 11

New Century Version (NCV)

- (1) Faith means being sure of the things we hope for and knowing that something is real even if we do not see it.
- (2) Faith is the reason we remember great people who lived in the past.
- (3) It is by faith we understand that the whole world was made by God's command so what we see was made by something that cannot be seen.
- (4) It was by faith that Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. God said he was pleased with the gifts Abel offered and called Abel a good man because of his faith. Abel died, but through his faith he is still speaking.
- (5) It was by faith that Enoch was taken to heaven so he would not die. He could not be found, because God had taken him away. Before he was taken, the Scripture says that he was a man who truly pleased God.
- (6) Without faith no one can please God. Anyone who comes to God must believe that he is real and that he rewards those who truly want to find him.
- (7) It was by faith that Noah heard God's warnings about things he could not yet see. He obeyed God and built a large boat to save his family. By his faith, Noah showed that the world was wrong, and he became one of those who are made right with God through faith.
- (8) It was by faith Abraham obeyed God's call to go to another place God promised to give him. He left his own country, not knowing where he was to go.
- (9) It was by faith that he lived like a foreigner in the country God promised to give him. He lived in tents with Isaac and Jacob, who had received that same promise from God.
- (10) Abraham was waiting for the city that has real foundations--the city planned and built by God.
- (11) He was too old to have children, and Sarah could not have children. It was by faith that Abraham was made able to become a father, because he trusted God to do what he had promised.
- (12) This man was so old he was almost dead, but from him came as many descendants as there are stars in the sky. Like the sand on the seashore, they could not be counted.
- (13) All these great people died in faith. They did not get the things that God promised his people, but they saw them coming far in the future and were glad. They said they were like visitors and strangers on earth.
- (14) When people say such things, they show they are looking for a country that will be their own.
- (15) If they had been thinking about the country they had left, they could have gone back.
- (16) But they were waiting for a better country--a heavenly country. So God is not ashamed to be called their God, because he has prepared a city for them.
- (17) It was by faith that Abraham, when God tested him, offered his son Isaac as a sacrifice. God made the promises to Abraham, but Abraham was ready to offer his own son as a sacrifice.
- (18) God had said, "The descendants I promised you will be from Isaac."
- (19) Abraham believed that God could raise the dead, and really, it was as if Abraham got Isaac back from death.
- (20) It was by faith that Isaac blessed the future of Jacob and Esau.
- (21) It was by faith that Jacob, as he was dying, blessed each one of Joseph's sons. Then he worshiped as he leaned on the top of his walking stick.

- (22) It was by faith that Joseph, while he was dying, spoke about the Israelites leaving Egypt and gave instructions about what to do with his body.
- (23) It was by faith that Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born. They saw that Moses was a beautiful baby, and they were not afraid to disobey the king's order.
- (24) It was by faith that Moses, when he grew up, refused to be called the son of the king of Egypt's daughter.
- (25) He chose to suffer with God's people instead of enjoying sin for a short time.
- (26) He thought it was better to suffer for the Christ than to have all the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking for God's reward.
- (27) It was by faith that Moses left Egypt and was not afraid of the king's anger. Moses continued strong as if he could see the God that no one can see.
- (28) It was by faith that Moses prepared the Passover and spread the blood on the doors so the one who brings death would not kill the firstborn sons of Israel.
- (29) It was by faith that the people crossed the Red Sea as if it were dry land. But when the Egyptians tried it, they were drowned.
- (30) It was by faith that the walls of Jericho fell after the people had marched around them for seven days.
- (31) It was by faith that Rahab, the prostitute, welcomed the spies and was not killed with those who refused to obey God.
- (32) Do I need to give more examples? I do not have time to tell you about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets.
- (33) Through their faith they defeated kingdoms. They did what was right, received God's promises, and shut the mouths of lions.
- (34) They stopped great fires and were saved from being killed with swords. They were weak, and yet were made strong. They were powerful in battle and defeated other armies.
- (35) Women received their dead relatives raised back to life. Others were tortured and refused to accept their freedom so they could be raised from the dead to a better life.
- (36) Some were laughed at and beaten. Others were put in chains and thrown into prison.
- (37) They were stoned to death, they were cut in half, and they were killed with swords. Some wore the skins of sheep and goats. They were poor, abused, and treated badly.
- (38) The world was not good enough for them! They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and holes in the earth.
- (39) All these people are known for their faith, but none of them received what God had promised.
- (40) God planned to give us something better so that they would be made perfect, but only together with us.