

**THE BOOK OF HEBREWS**  
CHAPTER 11  
“Believing in the Invisible”

In 1993, I was the passenger in my pastors car.

I had been praying for several years that the Lord would allow me to be a Pastor and teacher of the Word of God.

Now, I had not told my pastor of my longing, I had just told the Lord that this was my hearts desire.

Out of the Blue, my pastor said to me, “**Rob this might sound strange to you but I feel as though the Lord has told me to Ordain you as a pastor and send you out as a minister at large**”.

I was ordained on March 23, 1993

The Lord then told Elsie and I to sell our home, sell or give away everything that we owned, give up our contracting business, stop our bible Study in our home, buy a travel trailer and go.

“**Go where**” I asked the Lord. “**Just Go**” He told me.

So, June 23, 1994, we packed our clothes into a travel trailer and took off, our friends and family thought we had lost our minds.

We traveled over 38,000 miles throughout the western United States over the next 15 months or so.

Seeking to spend the winter in Arizona, we arrived in Phoenix about October 1995.

April of 1996, I had hurt my back working for a Landscape Contractor in Phoenix, Elsie was hospitalized with a severe flare in her Lupus, a disease of the Immune system.

As Elsie and were recuperating there in Phoenix, by June the temperatures soared to 110 degrees, living in a travel trailer became unbearable.

We moved the trailer up to the Rim country of Northern Arizona where it was much cooler.

When we arrived there the Lord spoke very clearly to us that we were not to leave Arizona, but to wait there for His next instructions.

Without a Job, or any Income or any real logical reason, we tried to buy a house in Heber.

Amazingly, the Lord had our loan approved for that house, so we moved in and waited for the Lords next instructions.

Two years went by, I was becoming very discouraged, believing that I had not heard the Lord correctly.

On one particular week, I was just about to give up and admit I had made a mistake coming and settling in Arizona.

***“Lord, I must not have heard you correctly, maybe we never should have left Californian in the first place...”***

That was on a Wednesday. Friday morning, I got a call from a pastor friend of mine that asked me if I would be willing to go to the Holbrook and Winslow Calvary Chapel that Sunday to teach because they had lost their pastor.

At the same time, Pastor Bob Hoekstra had been sent by pastor Chuck Smith of Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa to help the two churches make it through their difficult time.

Elsie and I just came and tried to help Bob as much as we could. In the process of a week, we had fallen in love with the people of the 2 little churches in Winslow and Holbrook.

Pastor Bob Hoekstra was staying with Elsie and I up in Heber, and we would drive him down to the services at each church during the week.

At the end of the second week, Elsie and I had “Fallen in Love with the people of these two little churches, we felt as if the Lord wanted us to stay and be their pastor, but we didn’t say anything to Pastor Hoekstra.

On the way to the Thursday Bible study in Holbrook, pastor Hoekstra turned to us and said: ***“Rob and Elsie, this might sound strange to you, but I feel as though the Lord has told me that you two are to be the New pastor and wife of these two churches...”***

That was 7 years ago...

### **Hebrews 11**

1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

**When we left California, we didn’t have a clue that the Lord had planned all along for us to come to Winslow and Holbrook Arizona as Pastor two churches.**

- ☞ **In fact**, if the Lord had told me that while we were living in Californian, He wanted to send us to Winslow and Holbrook, I would have said no!
- ☞ **You see**, I grew up in the Holbrook and Winslow Area, I graduated from Holbrook High School in 1974.
- ☞ **I made the statement when I graduated**: “I am never coming back to this nothing town again...”

**Never say Never to the Lord!**

- ☞ I didn't know when I lived here in this area 30 years ago, that someday the Lord would be bringing me back here again.

You see, the things you are experiencing in you life right now, are the very things that the Lord is using to train and prepare you for what He wants to do in your life and through your life later on...

**I didn't know that all of this was going to happen 10 years ago when we left California, I didn't have a clue.**

- ☞ **In fact**, I have discovered that most of the time, **we don't really know if we are doing the will of God until after we have done it.**
- ☞ **But "Faith"**, the topic of our next two Sundays here in Hebrews 11, is exactly that:

Faith is going on, and going into areas that you don't know and don't understand yet.

- ☞ **It means trusting** in the goodness and the Love of the Lord in the present situation where you don't have a clue what is going to happen.

It is knowing that somehow it will all turn out for your good, because God promised that it would.

- ☞ **Even though**, at the present time, there is no physical evidence that it will turn out for good.
- ☞ **All you have** is the promise of the Lord that He is working in your life, and moving you along in the course He has chosen for you.

The reason that we study the Old Testament, is that it is full of real people just like us, that went through the same kinds of struggles, disappointments and failures that we go through, and yet we read that they went on anyway, and they made it through them.

- ☞ **Amazingly**, even though all of these examples of real people in the Old Testament never got their hands on what was promised to them, they kept their eyes on the Lords promises and waited for the prize.

This morning, all of these Old Testament believers are watching us and cheering us on, so we had better strip off all the things in this life that can slow down or stop us from finishing strong with Jesus.

As we keep our eyes on Jesus, we also study how these Old Testament people of faith made it through their lives themselves and never lost sight of where they were headed.

- ☞ **You will discover** that all of these Old Testament men and Women that are listed here in Hebrews 11, called "**The Halls of Faith**", also failed many times just like you and I do.
- ☞ **Those listed here** in the Halls of Faith of Hebrews 11, were not Perfect People.

- ☞ **They were Liars, Manipulators, Selfish**, Had the wrong Attitudes many times, and yet, The Lord was patient with them and brought them along in their life till they finished “**In Faith**” with Him.

**This morning, they are the examples that are held up to us to show to us what “Living by Faith is all about**

Faith is what is behind all of the things you do.

- ☞ **The motivations** for why you do it..
- ☞ **Faith is** What you believe about the Lord.
- ☞ **Your understanding of Him**, who He is, How He works, What He wants to do. With you, and your life.

**Your own personal Faith is based upon the way you think.**

- ☞ **If your thinking** is structured on the Word of God, everything is easier to understand and go along with that happens in your life.
- ☞ **If your thinking is based on your own wisdom**, your own understanding, your own views, or the views of other people, it will be hard to believe God and trust Him.

**Listen, A human being cannot live a single day without Faith. It doesn't matter if you believe in God or not, a Human being cannot live without Faith.**

- ☞ **Without Faith**, you would never be able to close your eyes and go to sleep at night.
- ☞ **While you are asleep tonight** (8 Hours), all by themselves, without you even thinking about it, your lungs will breath in and out about 80,000 gallons of air.
- ☞ **In just 24 hours**, the blood in your body will travel a total of 12,000 miles - that's four times the width of North America
- ☞ **Your heart pumps** about 1 million barrels of blood during an average lifetime--that's enough to fill more than 3 super tankers.
- ☞ **Did you know that your heart** is going to beat around 100,00 times today?
- ☞ Source: <http://www.medindia.net/facts/index>.

How do you know for sure that when you close your eyes tonight, your heart will continue to beat all by itself? YOU DON'T!

How do you know that your lungs will do what they are supposed to do tonight and breath in the 80,000 gallons of air you need to stay alive? YOU DON'T!

**This is all pretty scary when you consider that Tonight when we go to sleep and enter REM (Rapid Eye Movement), your body will become completely paralyzed as areas of the brain that control movement are de-activated. It is this mechanism that stops us from falling out of bed.**

- ☞ **You just have to “Have Faith”** in the things you can't see, hope in what you can't control, right?

### **Psalms 4:8**

I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; For You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety

So, why is it that every night, we can lay our head on the pillow and go to sleep without thinking “**I wonder if my heart is going to continue beating tonight while I am in that paralyzed state of sleep?, I wonder if I will keep breathing air while I am asleep?**”

- ☞ **Yet, we seem to be able to trust** that this is all going to happen just as it is supposed to.

Why then, can we not just trust the Lord with all of the other same cares and concerns that we have while we are awake.

- ☞ **Surely keeping your heart beating**, breathing and keeping you alive at night while your asleep and you have no control over whether you live or die, **is much more important that the stuff you are worried about right now!**

The Lord knows the difference between what you do believe and what you don't believe. He knows if your trust is based upon His abilities and wisdom, or if it is based on your own abilities reasoning.

- ☞ **The Lord delights** in those that just trust Him even though they can't understand everything.
- ☞ **When we do this**, it pleases God!

### **Hebrews 11**

1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.

3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

**If a person can believe the very first verse in the Bible, then everything else in the Bible, and everything else in life in general is very easy.**

### **Genesis 1:1**

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

If you can believe and accept that God just spoke the physical Universe into being, then you will have no problem believing that He can and will take care of you and your life.

**What you believe about How God created the Heavens and Earth is what will determine your entire life.**

- ☞ **The Hebrew word** that is used here for “Create” is “**Bara**”, and it means simply “**To Create out of Nothing.**”

*“In the Beginning There was nothing in the Universe, Jesus spoke and then there was Everything.”*

- ☞ **The Lord has the unique ability** to speak into existence things that do not exist, making them out of things that also did not exist.
- ☞ **God doesn't create** the way man does.
- ☞ **Man goes out and finds all of the components** he needs to make something, and then assembles them together.

**When God Created the Universe, he didn't need to Assemble anything, he just spoke and Everything came into existence.**

There was a scientist who wanted to challenge the Lord to a contest.

He told the Lord: **“I believe that I have the ability to create, just like you do...”**

So the Lord told the Scientist: **“OK, let's see what you can do...”**

The Scientist went out into a large field with a wheel barrow and a shovel.

He took the shovel and pushed it into the dirt of the earth...

Just then, the Lord interrupted the scientist: **“Oh no you don't, get your own dirt...”**

**Man can only create something by gathering materials together.**

- ☞ **There are 2 Hebrew words** that can be used for Create. **“Asa”**, to create by using pre existing materials, and **“Bara”**, the create out of nothing.

### **Genesis 1:1**

In the beginning God created (Bara) the heavens and the earth.

When the Lord created the Heavens and the Earth, He didn't go out and gather together all the materials that He needed to make stars, planets and solar systems, He just spoke. **“Bara”**

**This is the entire point of Hebrews 11:3**

### **Hebrews 11**

3 By faith we understand that **the worlds were framed by the word of God**, so that the things which **are seen were not made of things which are visible**

**Did you get that?**

Verse 3 here makes the statement that the Entire Universe is made out of things that are not visible!

- ☞ **Now of course**, we know today that everything in the Universe is made up of Atoms.
- ☞ **When the Book of Hebrews was written**, they had absolutely no knowledge of the Atom.

**The Atom would not be discovered for nearly 1,800 years!**

- ☞ **How then** could the writer of the Book of Hebrews know that everything in the Universe is made up of the Invisible?
- ☞ **Easy if you understand** that the Holy Spirit is the real author of the Bible.

So, this morning, If you have “**Faith**”, a hope in things that you have not yet seen, that Jesus did speak the Universe into existence, then whatever else that you need in your life, you should have no trouble believing that he can and will take care of you

### **Hebrews 11**

4 By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

**In the book of Genesis, the Lord required Cain and his brother Abel to bring an offering to the Lord.**

- ☞ **Abel brought a lamb** from his flock.
- ☞ **Cain brought** some of the produce from his crops.
- ☞ **The bible says** that the Lord accepted Abel’s lamb but rejected Cain’s produce from the ground.

### **Genesis 4:1-5**

1 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, “I have acquired a man from the LORD.”

2 Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

3 And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of **the fruit of the ground** to the LORD.

4 **Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock** and of their fat.

5 but the Lord did not accept Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

**There have been allot of commentaries written on why Abel’s offering was accepted and Cain’s offering rejected.**

- ☞ **Most of the commentaries** will tell you that because Abel’s offering was a blood sacrifice it was accepted.
- ☞ **Cain, on the other hand** offered the work of his own hands, so his offering was rejected.

According to the law of the sacrifices, there was a sacrifice called “The Meal Offering”, as well as the Animal offered in the Sacrifice.

- ☞ **I am not sure** that the reason Cain’s sacrifice was rejected, was just because it was a Meal offering instead of a Sin offering.

Here in chapter 11 of the Book of Hebrews it says that “Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice than Cain...”

**There are 2 possible interpretations of what happened:**

1. **Abel offered his sacrifice in Faith**, whereas Abel did not offer his sacrifice in faith.
2. **God had told them both to bring the animal for the sacrifice**, Abel believed the word of the Lord and obeyed, Cain did not obey the Word of the Lord.

What we do know is that the difference between being accepted and rejected was “Faith”.

- ☞ **In the Old Testament**, what made a person righteous in Gods sight was faith.
- ☞ **Later in chapter 15** of Genesis it says that “*Abraham Believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness*”.
- ☞ **Everything to God** Is wrapped up in whether or not a person believes what He says.

The first prophecy in the Bible is Genesis 3:15, where in response to Adam not believing God and falling, the Lord makes a promise that “**The Seed of the woman would bruise the serpents head...**”

### **Genesis 3:15**

And I will put enmity Between you (satan) and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; (Singular) He (Jesus) shall bruise your head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel.”

- ☞ **Because of this** prophecy here in Genesis 3:15, Essentially Eve believed that when Cain was born, he was going to be the one that would defeat satans power.
- ☞ **Eve believed** that her son Cain would be the Messiah!
- ☞ **Eve believed that the promise** to do something about Adam and Eve’s sin was going to happen immediately.
- ☞ **The evidence of this** is that Eve named her son “Cain” which means “*I have acquired a man from the Lord*”, because she thought Cain was “**The Man**” the Lord had promised.

**The people in the Old Testament knew and understood through Gods Word that the Messiah was going to suffer and die for the sins of the whole world.**

### **Isaiah 53:5-6**

5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray;  
We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

When the Lord took Abraham outside to look up at the night sky, he told him to “**Count the number of the stars, if he was able...**”

- ⊞ **Then the Lord told Abraham to keep trusting Him** because that uncountable great number of stars in the sky would be just like Abraham’s future descendents, they will be “*Too many to count*”.

### **Genesis 15:5-6**

5 Then He brought Abraham outside and said, “Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.” And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”

6 And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

**Now promising “So many descendant that they will not be able to be counted”, to a 100 year old man and 90 year old woman, is a tremendous promise.**

What was it that God said made Abraham “Righteous”?

- ⊞ **That Abraham “Believed God”.**
- ⊞ **So, in answer to the Question “What is Faith”?**
- ⊞ **It is just taking God at His Word,** believing what He says.

**How then does a person get “Faith” enough to believe God, to believe what He says?**

### **Romans 10:17**

So then **faith comes by hearing**, and hearing by the word of God.

**You gain and increase your faith everytime you submit yourself to the Study of the Word of God**

- ⊞ **In genesis 3:21 the lord begins this instruction about a blood sacrifice** for sin by killing the animals shedding their blood and then god providing the covering for adam and eve.
- ⊞ **The offerings were to be in 2 parts:**
  1. **Thanksgiving to god.**
  2. **An offering for their sins to god.**
- ⊞ Notice that cain brought an “**offering from the ground**” it was from his crop of grains.
- ⊞ “**offering**” in hebrew is “minchah” (**min-khaw**) a sacrificial offering.
- ⊞ In leviticus 2:1 we see what an “minchah” is:

### **Leviticus 2:1**

1 `When anyone offers **a grain offering** to the LORD, his offering shall be of **fine flour**. And he shall **pour oil on it**, and **put frankincense on it**.

- ⊕ This offering of “**fine flour**” with oil and frankincense was an **offering of gratitude** to the lord a **offer of thanksgiving**.
- ⊕ The “thanksgiving” offering was the **1<sup>st</sup> part** of the offering that adam and his family made to the lord.
- ⊕ **Where is the 2<sup>nd</sup> part** that cain should have offered the sacrifice for his sin?

### **Genesis 4**

4 Abel **also brought** of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering,

- ⊕ “**Abel also brought**”: correctly translated from the hebrew” “**bo gam hoo**. (bow gam huw) “**abel brought it also** (the same offering as cain)
- ⊕ **Abel brought the “min-khaw” thanksgiving offering to the lord also**
- ⊕ **In addition abel also brought** a “**first born lamb from his flock**”
- ⊕ The “**sin offering**” is from leviticus 4 called the “**thoo-se’-ah**”.
- ⊕ Hebrews 11:4 say’s abel did this by “**faith**”

### **Hebrews 11:4**

4 **By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain**, through which he obtained witness that **he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts**; and through it he being dead still speaks.

- ⊕ Abel brought the 1<sup>st</sup> part of the offering a “**min-khaw**” a gratitude offering to the lord
- ⊕ Abel also brought a “**thysia**” (**thoo-see’-ah**) a “**victim**” to be sacrificed for his sin’s.
- ⊕ Abel correctly took a lamb from his own flock which was “**first born**” and sacrificed it for his sins.
- ⊕ **This correctly pictured the future event when the lord jesus who’s life given for us took away our sins.**
  
- ⊕ Notice in hebrews 11:4 it say’s that “god testified of **abel’s gifts**...”
- ⊕ “**gifts**”: this shows that abel brought **more than 1 sacrifice**
- ⊕ The “**min-khaw**” **thanksgiving** and the “**thysia**” **the blood sacrifice**.
  
- ⊕ Cain brought only the one sacrifice the thanksgiving offering.
- ⊕ **Cain is the father of “deism**” those who do not believe that a “**blood sacrifice**” is necessary to cover your sin’s.
- ⊕ Cain brought a “**bloodless**” **sacrifice** he brought a “**min-khaw**” an offering of thanksgiving only.
- ⊕ **Cain must have know better** no doubt adam had instructed cain on the proper procedure from his youth.

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- **IN JUDE CAIN IS COMPARED TO SOMEONE WHO IS A “FALSE TEACHER” “THE WAY OF CAIN IS TO APPROACH GOD WITHOUT A BLOOD SACRIFICE.**

- ⊞ When abel also brought the “**min-khaw**” he also brought the “**thysia**” **the offering for his sins.**
  - ⊞ **Abel understood that his sins needed to be covered by god** this is why abel’s offering was accepted by god and cain’s was rejected
  - ⊞ **Approaching god without the shedding of blood is absolutely unacceptable.**
  
  - ⊞ **Notice again in hebrews 11:4** paul says that abel did this in “**faith** he believed what god said **it says here in hebrews 11:4 that because able believed what god said abel was “righteous”**”.
- 5 but He did not **respect** Cain and his offering. And Cain was **very angry, and his countenance fell.**
- ⊞ **Notice cain’s response to god** where there should be humility there is anger.
  - ⊞ **Cain does not approach god in the acceptable way** with “respect” he approaches with pride.
  - ⊞ As a result god does not “respect” or accept cain’s offering.
  - ⊞ **Here “respect” in the hebrew is “sha’ah” (shaw-aw) literally “god inspected and considered with compassion cain’s offering and is “amazed” that cain did this.**
  - ⊞ The lord god is amazed that cain would seek to approach him in this way without a blood sacrifice he had been taught the principles of sacrifice by adam since birth.
  - ⊞ **Cain knew better but chose to approach god on his own terms** people today do the same thing they ignore the prescribed method for approaching god jesus christ and instead seek to approach him “the way of cain” by their “good works” or “religiosity”.
- 6 So the LORD said to Cain, **“Why are you angry?** And why has your countenance fallen?
- ⊞ **When the lord asks questions it is not because he does not know** he is seeking to get us to think about something.
  - ⊞ Here the lord is questioning cain with the intention as a “**gracious warning**” **this is an opportunity for cain to repent** god is always looking for a reason to forgive us.
- 7 **“If you do well, will you not be accepted?** And if you do not do well, **sin** lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.”
- ⊞ Notice the premise here “**if you do the right thing you will be accepted**”
  - ⊞ **The hebrew word here for sin is “chatta’ah” (khat-taw-aw”)**
  - ⊞ Khat-taw-aw has been translated over 100 times in the o/t as “sin offering”.
  - ⊞ **Literally “the “sin offering” is lying at the door”.**
  - ⊞ When the 70 hebrew scholars translated the hebrew into greek “**septuagint**”, they translated **khat-taw-aw** as “**hamartia**”
  - ⊞ “hamartia” is the greek word for “sin offering”
  - ⊞ Paul used “**hamartia**” in 2 corinthians 5:21

## **2 Corinthians 5:21**

21 For He made Him who knew no sin “**HAMARTIA**” to be sin (**OFFERING**) for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- ☞ **literally jesus became a “sin offering” for us.**
- ☞ the correct translation of verse 7 should be **“and if you want to do well, the sin offering lies at the door”**.
- ☞ **remember cain’s failure was that he did not bring the “sin offering” to god.**
- ☞ **here again the lord is giving cain another chance** he say’s “the opportunity to bring a sin offering is lying at the door”
- ☞ the hebrew word here for lying is “rabats” (**raw-bats**) the term used to describe a 4 legged animal lying with it’s legs folded
  
- ☞ **the principle here is that cain was not rejected because he tried and failed he was rejected because he would not try the right way.**
  
- ☞ **the last part of verse 7** “and its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.”
- ☞ **the desire to bring the sin offering is not there but you should rule over it.**