



FAITH LESSONS

A LIFE OF FAITH



Calvin D. Williams

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Introduction:

1. What is Faith?

(Hebrews 11:1) tells us that faith is “being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

- Faith is “**belief in, devotion to, or trust in somebody or something**, especially **without logical proof**.”

2. How important is our faith?

- It is so important that, without faith, we have no place with God, and it is impossible to please Him (Hebrews 11:6). According to the Bible, faith is belief in the one, true God without seeing Him.

3. Where does faith come from?

(Ephesians 2:8-9) For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

- The Bible makes it clear that faith is a gift from God, not because we deserve it, have earned it, or are worthy to have it. It is not from ourselves; it is from God.

4. Why do we have faith?

- God designed a way to distinguish between those who belong to Him and those who don't.

knowing that by faith we will be in heaven with God for all eternity. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

5. How many of you have Daring faith?

(Matthew 9:29) Then he touched their eyes, saying, according to your faith be it unto you.

- Jesus is saying, you get to choose how much God blesses your life. You get to choose how God blesses you.
- If you have a **lot of faith**, you will get a **lot done in your life**. If you have a **little faith**, you will get a **little done in your life**. If you have **no faith**, you get nothing done in your life.
- The most daring thing you can do with your life is to live completely for Jesus Christ. Today following Christ in America presents no challenge. We have removed all the opposition. **For many following Christ is bland and boring**. No excitement!
- Most people are afraid to live by their faith. But **where there is no risk, there is no reward**. **Where there is no faith, there are no miracles**. Faith is the key to miracles in your life. If you are not seeing miracles in your life, it's because you are not stepping out on faith.
- What is daring faith? It is when you live on the edge of faith! Not in the shallows of safe conformity. It is when your life becomes an adventure. Your finest hours are when you step up, step out, be bound and take risk in Jesus's name. That's when you are fully alive. You move against your fears, but you do it anyway.
- God wants us to be people of daring faith. People that refuse to hide, refuse to cower. God want us to bravely follow our king Jesus Christ into the future He has planned for us.
- So many are falling back into fear, but God wants us to meet every challenge with faith and courage.

- The bible says, “*without faith it is impossible to please God.*”

Building a Life of Faith

6. Faith is **BELIEVING** when I don’t see it.

(Hebrews 11:1) *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

- Just as our physical eyesight is the sense that gives us evidence of the material world, faith is the “sense” that gives us evidence of the invisible, spiritual world.
- Faith is visualizing the future in the present. It’s seeing in advance.
- Man says, “I’ll believe it when I see it.” But God says, no, you’ve got it backwards. “**You will see it, when you believe it.**”
- There has never been a significant event in human history that was not accomplished by faith. Someone had to believe it first before it could be done...before it could be dreamed up before it could come to be.
- **Nothing happens until somebody believes it’s possible.**

7. Faith is **OBEYING** when I don’t understand it.

(Hebrews 11:7) *By faith Noah, being warned of God of **things not seen as yet**, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.*

- “It was by faith that Noah built an ark to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God who warned him about something that had never happened before.”
- Before the flood happened, **it had never rained on earth.** Noah had never seen rain before. He didn’t understand it. But when God spoke, Noah obeyed. He built a giant boat even though it had never rained before.

(Hebrews 11:8) *“It was faith that made Abraham obey when God called him to go out to a country which God had promised to give him. He left his own country without knowing where he was going.”*

8. Faith is **GIVING** when I don't have it.

(Hebrews 11:4) *"It was faith that made Abel offer to God a better sacrifice than Cain's. Through his faith he won God's approval. . ."*

- It wasn't the amount of Abel's offering; it was the faith attached to it. It's one thing to give when you have plenty of resources, it's another to give when you don't know where it's coming from. That's giving by faith. Some people say, God you give to me first and then I give back to you. That's not faith. Faith is giving in advance.
- **Did you know that faith and giving go together?** Did you know that God uses your finances to test your faith? Something we find ourselves in a place where it's tithing or paying our bills. That's a test. God test us as to who we are going to put first.
- Now there are two ways we can give. We can give by fear or by faith. Giving by fear is when we give based on what is safe and reasonable. Giving by faith is when we say, God what do you want to give through me. How much do you want me to trust you for?

Faith is giving when I don't have it.

9. Faith is **PERSISTING** when I don't feel like it.

(Hebrews 11:27) *By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.*

- Faith is enduring, it is diligent, determined, and *it is persistent*. Our world says do how you feel. But faith hangs in there even when you don't feel it. Mature people don't live by their emotions but by their commitments. Anybody can do what they feel like doing. That's a formula for failure. The secret to success is doing what most people don't feel like doing at all, or what other people are unwilling to do.
- It's doing the right thing even when you feel like giving up.
- How do you remain persistent? "Keep your focus on God" see him who is invisible.

10. Faith is **THANKING GOD** before I receive it.

(Hebrews 11:30) *By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after they were compassed about seven days.*

- By faith, the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days.
- If you wait until after a prayer has been answered to thank God, that's gratitude, but it's not faith. Faith is thanking God that the answer is already on its way even before you see it.

- Faith is thanking God in advance.

11. Faith is **TRUSTING EVEN** if I don't get it.

Two facts about God!

1. God hears and answers every single prayer

2. God does not always answer the way you want him to answer

Sometimes God's answer **yes**

Sometimes God's answer **no**

Sometimes God's answer is **"you've got to be kidding me."**

Sometimes God **has a better answer.**

God is not a vending machine where he pops out everything you want.

12. What do you do when God says no?

- **God is more interested in your character than your comfort.** He is more interested in making you holy than making you happy. **So sometimes he gives you the ability to handle trials instead of removing them from your life.**

If God gave you everything you asked for, you would be a spoiled brat. **But God wants you to have character and strength.**

God lets you go through tough times and then give you the ability to handle them.

Some heroes of faith did not receive what God had promised. He did not fulfill all he had promised in this life. Yet the world was not worthy of them.

Real faith is built in the valleys of life. Its trusting God when I don't get what I ask for.

Discovery Questions

1. How would you Rate the strength of your faith today? **(Scale of 1-10)**
2. Who do you know that demonstrates strong faith? What lessons can you learn from their examples?
3. Have you ever seen God do something extraordinary or miraculous, in your life or someone you know? How did that experience impact your faith?