**The Walk of Faith**

*Hebrews 11:13-16*

**Introduction**

1. **Hebrews 11:6** – faith is necessary if we wish to please God.
   1. Believing He exists is essential, but not enough.
   2. **We must believe He rewards diligent seekers.** 🡪
2. **This describes a faith that does. It is a faith that, while diligently seeking to please God, has the utmost belief and confidence that it will be rewarded.**
   1. As such, it operates with confidence in the unseen (**cf. Hebrews 11:1**).
   2. **Such confidence logically, and naturally translates into an active lifestyle of following God.**
3. The 11th chapter of Hebrews uses examples of followers of God in the past to illustrate what it means to walk by faith.
   1. **Verses 13-16**, *although directly relating to Abraham, Isaac, and Sarah, serve as an outline of the mindset and characteristics possessed by all exemplars of faith*.
   2. We must exhibit the same! 🡪
4. The Walk of Faith (**Hebrews 11:13-16**)
5. ***“not having received the promises”***
   1. **Hebrews 11:39-40** – All the examples of faith in this chapter died without having received the promise.
      1. **6:13-15** – Abraham received promises. (God made promises to His people and continually kept them.)
      2. **There is a greater promise to all men who would live by faith that they died without receiving.**
      3. ***“be made perfect”*** – this is that promise.
      4. **Cf. 1 Peter 1:10-12** – promises were made through them, and for them, but they died not having received them.
      5. **Hebrews 9:15** – fulfilled in Jesus. (*They were not perfected apart from us in that they were perfected by the same means – through the same sacrifice.*)
      6. **They continually served God knowing that despite the fact they would not receive the promises in their physical life, the promises would be fulfilled nevertheless.**
   2. **Romans 8:24-25** – we hope for the promises of God. This hope has not yet been realized.
      1. This hope contributes patience.
      2. **The men in Hebrews 11 patiently waited their whole lives, and never received what they were waiting for. But their faith waivered not.**
      3. **Romans 8:28** – The walk of faith continually looks to the future 🡪
6. ***“but having seen them afar off”***
   1. **Hebrews 11:24-27** – Moses lived in such a way that envisioned the unseen.
      1. ***He could not see the blessings of suffering for God right before him, but he could see them. (Afar off)***
      2. **He saw the *“wrath of the king”* and didn’t see God. (Right before him) But he envisioned God with the sight of faith, and chose to please Him instead!**
   2. **Romans 8:18 –** we must walk with the vision of faith – seeing and envisioning how much better things will be in the end.
      1. **We must not get caught up in this life, but long for the next.**
      2. **John 14:1-4** – we must envision the mansions prepared for us.
      3. *We must rest our thoughts upon being in God’s presence!* (**cf. Colossians 3:1-2** – seek and set mind on things above.)
7. ***“were assured of them, embraced them”***
   1. **Hebrews 11:17-19** – Abraham had the utmost confidence that God would provide.
      1. **He trusted that God would deliver on His promise of blessing Abraham through Isaac.**
      2. **(v. 19)** – He did not know how this would happen, but was assured God would not fail.
   2. **James 1:5-7** – (Asking for wisdom in trials.) We must not be double-minded in our faith in God.
      1. **At one moment we may be confident, and something happens and our confidence is gone.**
      2. Confidence must be steadfast!
      3. **Faith cannot rest on feelings, for outer circumstances may change those feelings. Faith must rest on the immutable council of God, for it never changes**.
      4. **2 Timothy 1:12** – Paul was faithful even in sufferings because he was certain of God’s promises.
8. ***“confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth”***
   1. **Hebrews 11:8-10** – Abraham left what he knew to be home to live a nomadic life. He did this because in his mind, home was with God in heaven.
      1. **Genesis 11:31-12:1** – Abram was with Terah (his father) in Ur of the Chaldeans.
         1. This was HIS country ***“your country.”***
         2. This was where HIS family was ***“from your family.”***
         3. This was HIS father’s house ***“from your father’s house.”***
         4. **He left all that he knew, and went where he did not know he was going.**
      2. **Hebrews 11:14-16** – Those who live by faith can be said to be continually homesick.
         1. Nobody who is home is homesick.
         2. **There is no place or thing on earth that satisfies this homesickness. 🡪**
   2. **1 Peter 2:11-12** – The person homesick for heaven does not want to fulfill fleshly lusts.
      1. **To fulfill lusts of the flesh is to declare this life to be home.**
      2. Our declaration is to be that of a home in heaven. (***THIS IS SHOWN BY LAYING UP HEAVENLY TREASURES. OTHERS NOTICE THIS.)***

**Conclusion**

1. As Christians, we are to be walking “The Walk of Faith.”
2. The walk of faith is characterized by these things.
   1. Continuance even when promise is not received.
   2. Envisioning the promises afar off.
   3. Having confidence in the promises.
   4. Living life as a pilgrim. Not making a home in the world.
3. Are you walking by faith?