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The Nature and Necessity of Faith

Hebrews 11

Context in Hebrews

The Hebrews' Conflict

- ❖ Warnings of apostasy throughout the epistle – *Hebrews 2:1-4; 3:6, 12-14; 5:12-14; 6:4-6; 10:19-31*
- ❖ A call to come out from Judaism and bear the reproach of Christ – *13:12-13*
- ❖ Persecution led to their slouch toward apostasy – *10:32-34*

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Context in Hebrews

The Hebrews' Call

- ❖ They are called to an endurance of faith – *10:32-39*
- ❖ Use of *Habakkuk 2:4*:
 - ❖ **Paul** – *Romans 1:17* – faith is how men are justified.
 - ❖ **Habakkuk** – call for the just to persist in living by faith while God uses Babylon to discipline His people.
 - ❖ **Hebrews** – *Hebrews 10:38* – the people of God must endure in faith amidst adversity.
- ❖ *Hebrews 11* – examples of faith; *12* – call to faith.

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Faith is Not Sight

Relation to Hope (v. 1a)

- ❖ Substance – *hypostasis* – *hypo* (under), *histēmi* (to stand) – to stand under.
- ❖ Object of faith – (v. 6) – God.
- ❖ Substance of hope is faith in God's promises – *Hebrews 6:13-19* – immutability of His counsel is shown and confirmed.

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Faith is Not Sight

Relation to Things Not Seen (v. 1b)

- ❖ Evidence – *elegchos*; proof, conviction (STRONG)
- ❖ Example of creation (v. 3):
 - ❖ We weren't there – *Job 38:4*
 - ❖ What creation reveals – *Romans 1:19-20* – invisible attributes of God; eternal power, Godhead.
 - ❖ Expression of creative power – *Psalms 33:6; Genesis 1:1*

Relation to the Hebrews (10:36)

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Faith is Essential to Pleasing God

God Requires Faith (v. 6)

- ❖ A necessary presupposition to a relationship with God is the desire for such within man. (Free-will)
- ❖ ***“Believe that He is”***
 - ❖ None have seen Him – *John 1:18*
 - ❖ Faith is conviction in the evidence displayed – *Romans 1:19*

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Faith is Essential to Pleasing God

God Requires Faith (v. 6)

- ❖ A necessary presupposition to a relationship with God is the desire for such within man. (Free-will)
- ❖ ***“Believe that He is”***
- ❖ ***“Believe that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him”***
 - ❖ Acknowledges God’s *interest* in man – *Psalm 8:3-5*
 - ❖ Acknowledges God’s *desire* to reward man – *Matthew 7:7-8, 11*
 - ❖ Acknowledges God’s *requirement* of effort – *Philippians 2:12*

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Faith is Essential to Pleasing God

God Acknowledges Faith (v. 2)

- ❖ *“The elders”* given as examples – those saints of old recorded in *Hebrews 11*.
- ❖ *“For by it the men of old gained approval.”* (NASB)
 - ❖ God credits men with faith and approves them – *Romans 4:3-8*
 - ❖ God is not unjust to not see our faith – *Hebrews 6:9-10*

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Faith is Actively Shown

The Exemplars of Faith (vv. 2, 6)

- ❖ Demonstrated faith in action by diligently seeking God.

Faith is a Journey

- ❖ It is not contrary to reason – *Acts 26:24-25*
- ❖ However, it is not immune to doubts and despair. It is proven through trial. (*cf. 1 Peter 1:6-9*)

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