

When it comes to holding fast, Biblical faith is crucial to understand and live out.

Hebrews 11:

- Known as the “Hall of Faith”
- We will talk about some of the ways we struggle to hold fast, and how Biblical faith addresses those struggles.
- Given the length of the text (40 verses!), we will highlight and read sections for today’s message

Why you might be struggling to hold fast (and how our passage on faith addresses that struggle)

Why you might be struggling to hold fast (and how our passage on faith addresses that struggle)

1. You are viewing faith as looking inward within yourself instead of outward to God.

Why you might be struggling to hold fast (and how our passage on faith addresses that struggle)

1. You are viewing faith as looking inward within yourself instead of outward to God.

**Hebrews 11: Biblical faith is not looking inward but outward to God.**

The proof text is this entire chapter:

**NONE** of the people referenced looked inward but outward to God!

## 2 Important takeaways:

1) It's not the strength of your faith but the object of your faith that saves!

## 2 Important takeaways:

2) Because it's not about the strength of your faith but the object of your faith (Jesus) that saves, this is why the author tells us we can have such assurance and conviction when it comes to Biblical faith.

Hebrews 11:1: Now faith is the **assurance** of things hoped for, the **conviction** of things not seen.

The assurance and conviction arise because Jesus is the perfect high priest and sacrifice!

Hebrews 10:19-22: Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

"It is possible to gain a sense of certainty in our faith because it depends on something external, not on our own feelings and experience. Faith gets its assurance by focusing on its object - which for us, ultimately, is Christ." - Michael Kruger

## One more thought:

Biblical faith that looks outward to God trusts in what God has done in the past and what God will do in the future, which shapes how you live in the present.

Hebrews 11:1: Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for (looking forward), the conviction of things not seen (looking past).

Why you might be struggling to hold fast (and how our passage on faith addresses that struggle)

2. You are putting your faith in a general view of God in whom Jesus is either not central or simply an example.

Why you might be struggling to hold fast (and how our passage on faith addresses that struggle)

2. You are putting your faith in a general view of God in whom Jesus is either not central or simply an example.

Hebrews 11: Biblical faith is not faith in a general view of God but in Jesus and his sacrifice on the cross.

Abel:

Hebrews 11:4: By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.

“You cannot approach God in just any way you want to. Cain tried that and it didn’t work. You always have to approach God through the shed blood of the Savior.” - Michael Kruger

Why you might be struggling to hold fast (and how our passage on faith addresses that struggle)

3. You are approaching faith in God as mere head knowledge only.

Why you might be struggling to hold fast (and how our passage on faith addresses that struggle)

3. You are approaching faith in God as mere head knowledge only.

Hebrews 11: Biblical faith is relational.

Enoch:

Hebrews 11:5-6: By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Is Biblical faith personal and relational for you?

Why you might be struggling to hold fast (and how our passage on faith addresses that struggle)

4. Your faith has to always “make sense to you” in order for you to stay with it.

Why you might be struggling to hold fast (and how our passage on faith addresses that struggle)

4. Your faith has to always “make sense to you” in order for you to stay with it.

**Hebrews 11: Biblical faith trusts and obeys God even when it seems to make no sense.**

Noah:

Hebrews 11:7: By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

Why you might be struggling to hold fast (and how our passage on faith addresses that struggle)

5. Your faith and Christian practice appear to only focus on the here and now.

Why you might be struggling to hold fast (and how our passage on faith addresses that struggle)

5. Your faith and Christian practice appear to only focus on the here and now.

**Hebrews 11: Biblical faith calls for exilic living, not settled living.**

Abraham:

Hebrews 11:8-10: By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

Hebrews 11:13-16: These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

Adventure vs Quest

Why you might be struggling to hold fast (and how our passage on faith addresses that struggle)

6. You care too much about what people think of you and what they can do to you.

Why you might be struggling to hold fast (and how our passage on faith addresses that struggle)

6. You care too much about what people think of you and what they can do to you.

**Hebrews 11: Biblical faith does not fear man but fears God.**

Moses:

Hebrews 11:24-27: By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. **By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible.**

Tim Keller: “If you have the smile of God, all other frowns are inconsequential.”

Why you might be struggling to hold fast (and how our passage on faith addresses that struggle)

7. Your view of what God can do is too small and your experience of God is too safe.

Why you might be struggling to hold fast (and how our passage on faith addresses that struggle)

7. Your view of what God can do is too small and your experience of God is too safe.

**Hebrews 11: Biblical faith does not limit God’s powerful working in and through you.**

Hebrews 11:32-34: And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.

Biblical faith doesn’t limit God’s powerful working in and through you.

“Risk, not rust.” - Jack Miller, Scotty Smith

Why you might be struggling to hold fast (and how our passage on faith addresses that struggle)

8. (Last one) You are willing to sacrifice and endure for God up to a certain point and that’s all.

Why you might be struggling to hold fast (and how our passage on faith addresses that struggle)

8. You are willing to sacrifice and endure for God up to a certain point and that's all.

**Hebrews 11: Biblical faith endures suffering with gospel hope.**

Hebrews 11:35-36: Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment... They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

Wrapping up:

1. The “Hall of Faith” is the “Hall of Grace”

Wrapping up:

1. The “Hall of Faith” is the “Hall of Grace”

2. “By faith...”

“By faith...”

As the gospel takes a deeper hold of your life, what will be written about you?