



SERMON NOTES

KEEP MOVING FORWARD

Living by Faith

Faith is...(Hebrews 11:1-3):

- Confidence in what we hope for.
- Assurance about what we do not see.

Faith means that broken people can take confident action in response to the unseen God because he has proven himself to be true.

Understanding the Text (Hebrews 11:1-12:3):

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Application:

- Ask: What do I want to be remembered for?
- Ask: What would it take for my life to be a reflection of faith to others?
- Ask: What do I need to cast aside to run well with Jesus?
- Don't reduce your life to only what you can control.
- Have faith that God is bigger than your mistakes and release the weights that are holding you down.
- Live in bold community with Christ and others.
- Remember that we serve a perfect God who loves to use imperfect people to accomplish his perfect plan.

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Sermon Overview

Weariness. Sluggishness. Apathy. We have all experienced these feelings at some point—they drain our excitement and energy for living well. So, what do you do when you find yourself in a season of exhaustion and fatigue?

The book of Hebrews is written to a group of Christians who had found themselves in that type of season. In the midst of opposition and life's complications, they were in danger of losing interest in following Christ. So, this book reminds them of the resources they have in Christ and the nature of the journey they are on. All along the way, the author's challenge to them and to us is simply this—keep moving forward!

Praying Scripture

The prayer focus this week is Hebrews 12:1.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us"

Below is an example of how to pray the passage:

Father, thank you for the many people of faith in Scripture who show us by their lives that your Word is trustworthy and true. In the trials and difficulties of my life, help me to keep trusting you like all of the people who lived by faith before us. Help me to discard everything that may hinder my faith journey and give me perseverance as I press toward the final goal. May I patiently endure all the obstacles in life in the power of the Holy Spirit and help me to be a living witness to your Word of truth. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

MARCH 10

This week, we are given a glimpse of ordinary men and women who lived an extraordinary life because they lived by faith. Their example has been presented as a model for us to follow. Think about your life and how you are living by faith this week.



DAY ONE

Breathe, listen, pray and ask the Spirit to guide your time.

Read: Hebrews 11:1-12:3.

1. How does chapter 11 connect to chapter 10? To chapter 12?
2. How is faith described in 11:1?
3. How does 11:3 connect to and further define 11:1?
4. According to 11:6, there are two requirements that must be satisfied by those who come to God. List them. Why are both necessary?

Reflect on the lives of Abel and Enoch and how they are honored for their faith. Think about your faith. How are you living by faith?

DAY TWO

Breathe, listen, pray and ask the Spirit to guide your time.

Read Hebrews 11:1-12:3.

1. How is Noah's faith described in 11:7?
2. How did Abraham demonstrate his faith? (11:8-10) How were Abraham and Sarah rewarded for their faith?
3. What attitude did Abraham have toward his earthly life? How do you think he would have defined "home?" List evidences of his definition of life on earth from 11:8-16.
4. Hebrews 11:13 states that *"all these people were still living by faith when they died."* How were they able to continue living by faith when they didn't see a tangible result during their lives?

Reflect on times and situations you chose to live by faith when you couldn't see or be certain of the outcome.



DAY THREE

Breathe, listen, pray and ask the Spirit to guide your time.

Read Hebrews 11:1-12:3.

1. Starting with 11:20, list the people mentioned and how they lived by faith.
 - a. 11:20
 - b. 11:21
 - c. 11:22
 - d. 11:23
 - e. 11:29
 - f. 11:30
 - g. 11:31
 - h. 11:32-35
2. What is the meaning of the word, “therefore” in 12:1? How are believers exhorted to live by faith? (12:1-2)
3. What dual role is described in 12:1-2? Why are each of these roles important to our maturity?

Reflect on what you read this week. How did the study encourage and stretch you?

Respond and Apply: Think back over your spiritual journey and write out times that you exercised faith. Also, write down times you sensed you were to live by faith, but didn’t. Take time to talk with God about the times you did live by faith and the times that you didn’t. As you pray, surrender your need to be in control and ask the Lord to help you live by faith.

As you complete the study this week listen to this familiar song [I Lift My Hands](#). Let this song speak to your soul and strengthen your faith.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. How does the book of Hebrews define faith? How would you define faith in your own words?
2. Who are examples in your life of people who live by faith?
3. How is faith more than an abstract concept? How can you live out faith in practical ways?
4. Why is it hard to live by faith when you don’t see answers, or results, in this life?
5. How does our lack of faith lead to grumbling, complaining, or apathy? How does a lack of faith lead to discouragement instead of hope in your current circumstances?
6. What are signs that you are not persevering in your faith?
7. What are some things that have you tangled up and are hindering you in living by faith?
8. What do you need to do to fix your eyes on Jesus so that you can persevere in living by faith? What keeps you from fixing your eyes on Jesus?