

LIVE BY FAITH

ONE SHEET
BIBLE STUDY

Hebrews 11 and the unseen life

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen... By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God.” HEBREWS 11:1, 3 (ESV)

THE BIG IDEA Faith is living as though what God has revealed is more solid than what your eyes can presently see.

It is not denial of reality. It is the decision to interpret visible reality through the character, promises, and finished work of God.

1. WHAT FAITH IS MADE OF

Biblical faith moves through three inseparable layers:

1	UNDERSTANDING	I see what God has said and grasp the truth of it.
2	CONVICTION	The truth moves from “that is true” to “that is true for me.”
3	COMMITMENT	I entrust myself to God and act on what I believe.

Biblical faith uses the mind, captures the heart, and moves the feet.

2. HEBREWS 11 DOES NOT DEFINE FAITH IN THE ABSTRACT

It shows you what faith looks like when the promise is real but the fulfillment is not yet visible.

ABEL	WORSHIPED	Faith values God above mere religious performance. 11:4
NOAH	BUILT	Faith obeys before there is visible confirmation. 11:7
ABRAHAM	WENT	Faith can move before it knows the whole map. 11:8-10
SARAH	CONSIDERED	Faith does not ignore impossibility. It counts God faithful. 11:11
MOSES	CHOSE	Faith can value an unseen reward above a visible empire. 11:24-27

3. FAITH IS NOT...

POSITIVE THINKING Faith is confidence in God, not confidence that circumstances will improve.	THE ABSENCE OF DOUBT Hebrews celebrates people who often struggled, yet kept returning to God’s promise.
A SPIRITUAL ACHIEVEMENT Faith does not earn grace. Faith receives grace.	A LEAP WITHOUT REASON Biblical faith thinks deeply, then stakes the life on what is true.

HOW TO ACTUALLY LIVE BY FAITH

The daily movement from promise to practice

“For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.” HEBREWS 11:10 (ESV)

1. FIVE MOVEMENTS OF A LIFE OF FAITH

LOOK BACK	Remember the cross. God has already acted decisively for you in Jesus. Your worst problem has already been answered.
LOOK UP	Ask what is true about God right now: faithful, wise, present, sovereign, good.
LOOK THROUGH	Refuse to let the circumstance interpret God. Let God interpret the circumstance.
STEP FORWARD	Do the next faithful thing even if you cannot see the outcome. Faith becomes visible through obedience.
LOOK AHEAD	Hebrews 11 lives toward “the city.” Present losses become bearable when the future with God becomes weighty and real.

2. FIND THE RIVAL FAITH UNDERNEATH YOUR FEAR

Anxiety, anger, envy, and despair often reveal “functional saviors”: good things we quietly ask to do what only God can do. Every fear contains a faith claim.

What am I most afraid of losing?	That may reveal what I believe I must have to be okay.
What outcome feels non-negotiable?	That may reveal where I am demanding control instead of trusting God.
Whose approval has the power to crush me?	That may reveal a verdict I value above God’s verdict in Christ.
What do I keep saying, “If I only had ___”?	That blank can become a rival object of faith.

3. THE GOSPEL DIFFERENCE

The power of faith is not found in the strength of your grip, but in the strength of the One you are gripping.

Hebrews 11 ultimately pushes us into Hebrews 12: “looking to Jesus.” Jesus is not merely another example in the hall of faith. He is the founder and perfecter of faith, the One who endured the cross for the joy set before Him. We live by faith because He has already been faithful for us.

4. A SEVEN-DAY FAITH PRACTICE

NAME IT	ANSWER IT	ACT ON IT
What visible reality is dominating my attention today?	What promise, attribute, or work of God speaks to it?	What would I do today if I actually believed that truth?

DISCUSS + PRAY

- Where is God asking you to trust Him before you can see the outcome?
- Which person in Hebrews 11 most exposes the way you tend to live by sight?
- What “functional savior” competes most often with Jesus for your confidence?
- What is one concrete act of obedience that would make your faith visible this week?

PRAYER *Father, make what is unseen more real to me than what is seen. Teach me to believe You, not merely believe in You. Expose the false saviors I trust, fix my eyes on Jesus, and give me courage to obey before I know the outcome. Amen.*