

LIVING TRUTH

HEBREWS

MESSAGE GUIDE

MESSAGE GUIDE

This Message Guide may be a little different from those that you have used before.

The purpose of these Notes is not an in-depth study of the scriptures used, but rather to assist you or your Study Group as you reflect on this message given by Charles Price.

We present questions in order to stimulate discussion. Sometimes we will give you the answer ... sometimes not. At other times a statement or a theme is presented for your consideration.

As you allow the Holy Spirit to guide the direction of your study and discussions we pray the flexibility of this Message Guide will help you as you delve more deeply into Charles' message, and that you will unearth more lessons from the Lord that may not have been immediately obvious.

MESSAGE GUIDE & QUESTIONS

Hebrews Series

PART 1 – GOD’S FINAL WORD

Hebrews 1:1-3

1. Read and consider Hebrews 1:1-3

2. When we are exposed to the word of God what are the two things that can happen?

3. What is the central theme of this book of Hebrews?

4. These are large claims to be making; can we be more specific?

5. **1. The Nature of Revelation**

What are the two important aspects of this?

6. Read and consider Exodus 4:15-17 and Exodus 7:1

7. God had spoken to us in many different way such as:

P _____, P _____, D _____, S _____,
E _____, E _____

8. But now a new era has dawned...Hebrews 1:2

9. **In what way is Jesus God’s last word to us?**

10. **In His Person – read and consider Hebrews 2:10**

11. **2. The Nature of Our Responsibility**

Read and consider Hebrews 2:1-4

Final Thoughts

**We cannot guess the mind of God; He has to reveal it.
We are therefore wholly dependent on revelation.**

If we do not pay attention we can harden our hearts.

- A heart **that does not pay attention**
- becomes a **hardened heart**, and a hardened heart
 - is always **going astray**.

Hebrews Series

PART 2 – FINDING REST IN GOD

Hebrews 3:7-4:2

1. Please read and consider Hebrews 3:7-4:2

2. Hebrews is a 'Progressive Revelation'. What does that mean?

3. There are events in the Old Testament that are often seen as 'types of Christ or the Christian life'. Read and consider:

- Jude 5
- Jude 5
- 1 Corinthians 5
- 1 Corinthians 10
- John 6

vi. 1 Corinthians 10

vii. Hebrews 4

4. Despite all these 'types of Christ' things went drastically wrong. Read and consider 1 Corinthians 10:5

5. So – why did God save us?

6. Israel had come OUT of their bondage, but had not come INTO His freedom. What were the reasons? It all had to do with their hearts. Read and consider:

Hebrews 3:7-8

Hebrews 3:10

Hebrews 3:15-19

7. We are not talking about your creed.

8. The problem is summarized in Hebrew 4:2 – read and consider

Hebrews Series

PART 3 – CHRIST OUR SACRIFICE AND CHRIST OUR HIGH PRIEST

Hebrews 4:14-16 & 5:1-6

9. Now read and consider afresh Isaiah 40:28-31

1. Please read and consider Hebrews 4:14-16 & 5:1-6

Final Thoughts

Hebrews is a book full of warnings to Christians.

- To not harden our hearts.
 - To not fall away.
- To not be guilty of unbelief.
- To not deliberately go on sinning.
- To not miss the grace & provision of God.
 - To go on to maturity.

For this there is both Effort and Rest.

- Obedience & Trust
- Discipline & Dependence

So what do we do?

The key is to take the warning of Hebrews 4:2-3a

Take the truth, all of truth. Obey it and combine it with faith.

Then get on with life...And thank Him for what He will be doing.

2. In Hebrews there are 2 aspects of the work of Jesus Christ:

1. P _____
2. D _____

3. Where do these take place? Read and consider Revelation 5:9

4. Lets take a look at

1. The Purchase: Christ our SACRIFICE – on Earth.

Read and consider Hebrews 10:10, 7:27 & 9:12 & 26-28

5. To understand Hebrews better we should remember that previously there had been 5 main offerings each of which required complex procedures.

- i. G _____ Offering
- ii. S __ _ Offering
- iii. F _____ Offering
- iv. G _____ Offering
- v. B _____ Offering

6. So what was the difference between these offerings, and the sacrifice of Christ? Read and consider Hebrews 10:11 and Hebrews 10:1-2.

Final Thoughts

Christ's death accomplished in one fell swoop, all that the many previous sacrifices, offerings, rituals and regulations of the tabernacle that were constantly being repeated.

Jesus IS the sacrifice.
ALL sin for ALL time, past, present
and future, has been paid for.

7. **2. DELIVERED: Christ our GREAT HIGH PRIEST – in Heaven.** The sacrifice has made full & free forgiveness possible. However, to have PURCHASED is NOT to have DELIVERED – made effective. How do we know this?

Hebrews Series

PART 4 – GOING ON TO MATURITY

Hebrews 5:11-6:6 & 6:9-11

8. In the Old Testament there were 2 offices that stood between God and Humanity.
P_____ and P_____

9. Please read and consider the following verses:
1 John 5:13
John 29:31
1 John 1:8 & 9

1. Please read and consider Hebrews 5:11-6:6 & 6:9-11 paying particular attention to Hebrews 6:1

2. From Hebrews 5:12 what is the metaphor used here?

10. Christ, our High Priest, understands.
Read and consider Hebrews 4:15 - 16

3. We need to ask 3 questions:
1. WHAT – is spiritual growth?
Read and consider Hebrews 5:13

4. What would this 'CONSTANT USE' produce?

5. This 'CONSTANT USE' also produces –
ii. A vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ that is stimulated by service.

6. **2. WHY – is spiritual growth necessary?**

Read and consider Hebrews 6:1-2

7. Read and consider Luke 14:29-30

8. So this brings us to the third question:

3. HOW is Spiritual Life nurtured?

Read and consider Hebrews 6:9-12

Final Thoughts

Are you 'puddling around in the shallows of a Christian life, rather than plunging the depths of richness? **We can only give what we have, but what we do have, we should give.**

Spiritual maturity is something that automatically and inevitably flows to others.

But if we find we have nothing to say, it is because we have nothing to say!

It is only by giving generously from the well of our knowledge, that we discover how deep that well is.

So – if you are not yet born again...**Come to Christ and start the journey.** 1 Peter 2:2
If you are born again...**Grow up...Let us go on to maturity**

Hebrews Series

PART 5 – THE NEW COVENANT

Hebrews 8:7-13

1. Read and consider Hebrews 8:7-13

2. With whom was the Old Covenant made?

3. Now read and consider Hebrews 8:7

4. Read and consider Hebrews 8:8 & 9

5. The Old Covenant was based on O _____
The New Covenant is based on P _____

6. A New Righteousness is CREATED by a New Relationship
which is CAUSED by a New Redemption.

1. A New Righteousness. Read and consider Hebrews 8:10b

7. Read and consider Matthew 5:18

8. 2. A New Relationship. Read and consider Hebrews 8:10b

9. 3. A New Redemption. Read and consider Hebrews 8:12

10. The whole saving work of Christ is encompassed in the
New Covenant.

Final Thoughts

A New Righteousness is CREATED by a New Relationship
which is CAUSED by a New Redemption.

Knowledge of God is not 'academic', but spiritual.

It is not 'propositional [believing a creed] but experiential.

To grow in knowledge of God is to grow in Experience of God.

Hebrews Series

PART 6 – RAIDING THE LOST ARK

Hebrews 9:1-5

1. Read and consider Hebrews 9:1-5 and 10:1

2. The Hebrew writer takes us into the 2 sections of the
Tabernacle and talks about 4 items of furniture.

3. **1. The Golden 7 pronged Lampstand.**

Read and consider Leviticus 24:3

4. **2. Opposites the lampstand on the North side was: a Table of Bread.**

5. **3. Then the priest moves to the Altar of Incense.**

6. **4. And finally we come to The Ark of the Covenant.**

7. Remembering that the Law was only a 'shadow – not the reality themselves, these items represent 3 essential ingredients of the Christian Life. Ingredient 1: What do the **Stone Tablets of the Covenant** represent?

8. **2. The Gold Jar of Manna.** Read Hebrews 9:3-4

9. **3. Aaron's Staff that had Budded.**

The account of this can be found in Numbers 16-17

Especially read and consider Numbers 17:1-5

10. So to recap:

Stone Tablets of the Covenant – the P _____ of God

The Gold Jar of Manna – the P _____ of God

Aaron's Staff that Budded – the P _____ of God

Final Thoughts

We must remember that we can have Christ in our lives in whom we have all we need for life and godliness, and yet we can still be living in spiritual poverty. We can be born again of the Holy Spirit, and yet not live in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Hebrews Series

PART 7 – LIVING BY FAITH IN GOD

Scripture: Hebrews 11:1-40

1. Read and consider Hebrews 11:1-40

2. What did all these people in Hebrews 11, named and unnamed, have in common?

3. We need to define this word 'faith'.
It is used as a noun and a verb.
-
-

4. We need to look at 3 things in this Chapter 11 of Hebrews.
1. The Relationship of Faith to Circumstances
Read again and consider Hebrews 11:1-38
-
-

5. But then what do these people have in common?
Hebrews 11:39
-
-

6. **2. The Relationship of Faith to Character**
The list of people who 'lived by faith' included some rogues,
such as...Jacob, Rahab, Samson, and Jephthah.
-
-

7. This begs the question: Which is more important,
Faith or Character?
-
-

8. **3. The Relationship of Faith to Confidence**
-
-

Final Thoughts

The KEY to living by faith in God is not mustering
up faith, but **getting to KNOW God...**
who is the **object of our faith.**

Hebrews Series

PART 8 – RUN THE RACE TO THE END

Hebrews 12:1- 11

1. Read and consider Hebrews 12:1-11

2. There are a number of warnings in Hebrews about starting a
race but not finishing. i. Hebrews 2:1, ii. Hebrews 3:12,
iii. Hebrews 12:12

3. There are 3 things that should help us to avoid this:
1. Be Sure to Observe. Read and consider Hebrews 12:1

4. **2. Be Sure of the Obstacles.** Read and consider Hebrews 12:1b.

5. Read and consider Matthew 11:28-30. And Hebrews 4:9-11.

6. **3. Be Sure of the Objective.** Read and consider Hebrews 12:2

7. Remember what Hebrews 12:2 says...

8. Read and consider Hebrews 13:8

Final Thoughts

Our walk with God today is not a guarantee of tomorrow. Drifting, complacency, falling out of the race, are dangers for us all.

We must lay aside not only entangling sins, but everything that becomes an obstacle, or diversion, to Christ.

He is more committed to us than we are to Him.

There is a race to be run.

Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

LEADER'S MESSAGE GUIDE

This Leader's Guide is prepared to help the Study Group Leader to keep the discussions moving along. Maybe your people will come up with different answers, or perhaps they will need a little prompting from you.

Remember, you want to encourage your people to fully participate. This is not a 'teaching session' by the Group Leader, but rather a discussion group. This may at first seem like a contradiction, but you will need for the Lord to give you wisdom to keep the discussions 'on track' whilst also allowing the Holy Spirit to direct your path.

LEADER'S MESSAGE GUIDE & QUESTIONS

Hebrews Series

PART 1 – GOD'S FINAL WORD

Hebrews 1:1-3

1. Hebrews warns us about the danger of spiritual deafness. These opening verses speak of how God has spoken in the past, as is speaking in the present.
2. When we are exposed to the word of God the two things that can happen are:
 1. We become more responsive and tender. OR...
 2. We become more resistant and harder.
3. The central theme of this book of Hebrews is that the NEW Covenant is better than the Old Covenant. More specifically it is Superior, Fuller, Richer, is more Far Reaching, and more Satisfying.
4.
 - i. **Jesus is better** than the prophets of Israel and the angels of heaven.
 - ii. There is **better rest** than the Israelites found in Canaan.
 - iii. There is a **better priesthood** than Melchizadek, who's priesthood was better than Aaron's.
 - iv. A **better Covenant** founded on **better promises**.
 - v. A **better law** – written **in our hearts**, not on stone.
 - vi. We have a **better sacrifice**.
 - vii. There is a **better mediator** between God and Man.
 - viii. There is a **better remedy for sin** – not just forgiveness, but *'cleansing us from a guilty conscience'*.
 - ix. We have a **better hope** of drawing close to God.
 - x. Those who **lived by faith** [OT] were all looking for a **better country**.

- xi. Those who died, did so looking for a **better resurrection**. Read and consider Hebrews 11:40
- xii. There is a **better, new and living way to God**.
- xiii. The Blood of Jesus speaks a **better word** than the blood of Abel.

This **Better Way** begins with a **Better Revelation**
So again read and consider Hebrews 1:1

We cannot guess the mind of God; He has to reveal it.
We are therefore wholly dependent on revelation.

5. The 2 important aspects of this are:
 - a. WHAT He has revealed?, and ...
 - b. HOW has He revealed it?
6. It is not CONTENT that makes prophecy, but its ORIGIN.
7. Preaching, Poetry, Drama, Stories, Events, Experience ...but
8. **This 'new era' is JESUS coming as God's last word**
9. In His Person and in His Work.
10. Not in His Deity – but in His Humanity
Read and consider Galatians 4:19, Hebrews 1:3 & 4, verse 8
The dual nature of Jesus, Divine and Human, is vital.
Jesus was never less than God – not for one moment – but He lived on earth as though He were never more than man.
11. We must pay careful attention to what we have heard.
If we don't we will drift away and neglect.

Danger in the Christian life is not so much 'ignorance', but 'non-appropriation'. We are more in Danger of Neglecting, than Rejecting. Read and consider Hebrews 3:7-10

Hebrews Series

PART 2 – FINDING REST IN GOD

Hebrews 3:7-4:2

1. Hebrews is a commentary on the Old Testament; a bridge between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant.
2. A 'Progressive Revelation' is not from part truth to whole truth, but from **Promise to Fulfillment**.
3.
 - i. Jude 5 – Egypt = Slavery too Sin
 - ii. Jude 5 – The Exodus = Coming out of sin
 - iii. 1 Corinthians 5 – Passover Lamb = Christ sacrificed for us.
 - iv. 1 Corinthians 10 – The Red Sea = Picture of Baptism
 - v. John 6 – Manna = Christ the Bread of Life
 - vi. 1 Corinthians 10 Water from the rock = Christ
 - vii. Hebrews 4 – Canaan [Promised Land]
= Resting in the strength of Christ
4. Why God was not please with them is the theme of Hebrews 3-4. Read and consider Psalm 95.

Beware of assuming that God is never angry with His people. There are times when He is: We grieve and quench the Holy Spirit. Read and consider Hebrews 3:10

5. Were we saved so that we would go to heaven instead of hell? No – that is a consequence of being saved, but not the reason for it.

We were saved to be reconciled to God & to rest in the Fullness of God. We were brought OUT of our sin to be brought IN to Christ

6. Hebrews 3:7-8 – Hardened Hearts
Hebrews 3:10 – Wayward Hearts
Hebrews 3:15-19 – Unbelieving Hearts
7. We can believe every item of a creed, but still have no **Delight in God, no Joy, no Trusting and no Expectancy**.
8. Truth alone does us no good; hearing alone does us no good. What is missing is that it must be **combined with faith** – that disposition of trust in God that He is going to work. Read Hebrews 4:1. Resting is being confident in His strength. It is realizing dependence is in God alone.
9. Hopefully this study will put that last familiar verse in a better context.

Hebrews Series

PART 3 – CHRIST OUR SACRIFICE AND CHRIST OUR HIGH PRIEST

Hebrews 4:14-16 & 5:1-6

1. There are things in the Christian life that we know are ours in Christ; we sing about them, claim them, affirm them [on Sundays], yet in actual fact they can seem a long way from what we experience throughout the week.
2. In Hebrews there are 2 aspects of the work of Jesus Christ:
 1. Purchase
 2. Delivery
3. One – the purchase – take place on earth;
the other – the delivery – takes place in Heaven.

4. The Bible is very clear that Christ was sacrificed ONCE to take away all the sins of many people.

- Its validity will never run out.
- It will never be exhausted.
- It will [never needs to be] done again.

Please read again Hebrews 9:25-26

Those of us who believe are SECURE in that fact.

Never again! It will never be necessary again.

Once and for all: IT IS FINISHED.

Christ's death accomplished in one fell swoop, all that the many previous sacrifices, offerings, rituals and regulations of the tabernacle that were constantly being repeated

5.
 - i. GUILT Offering – that had to do with our actual sins.
 - ii. SIN Offering – I am bringing my inner self/real me which is the cause.
 - iii. FELLOWSHIP Offering – that restores me to fellowship and intimacy with Him
 - iv. GRAIN Offering – this represents our business life as well as our spiritual life.
 - v. BURNT Offering – this represents full and final surrender of everything
6. Apart from the fact that these offerings were tedious, they were TOTALLY INADEQUATE. Read also Hebrews 10:10

Jesus IS the sacrifice. ALL sin for ALL time, past, present and future, has been paid for. Now read Hebrews 10:12

Now that our salvation has been purchased – here on earth – we must now experience DELIVERY.
7. Many are still in their sin. This is where the PRIEST has a role to play. In the past once the sacrifice had been made, the High

Priest had to go into the Holy of Holies with blood, sprinkle the Ark of the Covenant to make the cleansing effective.

8. In the Old Testament there were 2 offices that stood between God and Humanity. Prophet and Priest.

The Prophet looks towards people and speaks to people on God's behalf. **The Priest** looks towards God and speaks to God on the people's behalf.

This is now the role of Christ our High Priest. Read and consider Hebrews 7:11-12 Read also and consider 1 John 2:1-2
9. Why does it say He is faithful and just? Because it is paid for, fully, every sin you ever have committed or ever will commit
10. Don't just live off the fact that His sacrifice has reconciled you to God. **Possess you possession by continuous communion with Jesus Christ – day by day.**

Hebrews Series

PART 4 – GOING ON TO MATURITY

Hebrews 5:11-6:6 & 6:9-11

1. The maturity spoken of here is not related to 'years', but rather our 'intimacy with God', and the quality of life and fruitfulness that flows from that.
2. 'Milk and solid foods' are the metaphors used here. Milk will meet the digestive capacity and nutritional needs of a baby, but we need to move on to 'solid food'. Many Christians are still living on the bottle, when we should be on solid food. Also read and consider 1 Corinthians 3:1-3

3. This is a huge aspect to cover: impossible to do so in a brief study such as this. But it boils down to the fact that we cannot make the Christian life work by certain disciplines and effort alone. To attempt to do so would leave us frustrated and defeated. The flesh and human tactics cannot become our guidelines – we need to be truly led by the Spirit.

For this there is absolutely no short cut. It takes TIME continually spent with God. See Hebrews 5:14

Notice is speaks of ‘constant use’, not just a spasmodic, Sunday morning diet, or the occasional reading of the Bible. But CONSTANT USE,

4. This ‘CONSTANT USE’ produces –
i. A vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ that will overflow. Read and consider John 7:37-39 and Acts 3:6

We can only give what we have, but what we do have, we should give. Spiritual maturity is something that automatically and inevitably flows to others. But if we find we have nothing to say, it is because we have nothing to say!

5. **It is only by giving generously from the well of our knowledge, that we discover how deep that well is.**

If we teach because our hearts are full, then our hearts become fuller because we teach.

6. There are 6 foundational issues that need to be built on:
i. **Repentance** – from acts that led to death – change your mind.
ii. **Faith** in God – turn from self TO God.
iii. **Baptism** – public declaration of faith
iv. **Laying on of hands** – associated with receiving the Holy Spirit.

- v. **Resurrection of the dead** – confidence in the future.
vi. **Eternal judgment** – makes us accountable.

These 6 issues should not be left behind, but the principle of Spiritual Growth is not that we grow FROM one thing to another, but that we grown IN each of these basic truths. Read and consider Hebrews 6:4-6

7. So we are faced with two possible options [or consequences]
1. **We go on the maturity...or**
2. **We subject Jesus Christ to public disgrace by our immaturity and ‘bottle-fed Christianity.**
8. These verses speak of ‘better things’. And these ‘better things’ are nurtured by:
i. v.11 b – Showing **diligence** to the very end. Stick with it in thick and thin.
ii. v.11b – Make your **hope** sure. Work it through; deal with doubts.
iii. v.12a – Don’t become **lazy**. Spiritual laziness is a curse of our busy lives.
iv. v.12b – Through faith & patience inherit what is promised.

Hebrews Series

PART 5 – THE NEW COVENANT

Hebrews 8:7-13

1. Now we are going to talk about the **NEW COVENANT.**
2. • God made a covenant with **Noah** to not flood the earth again.
• God made a covenant with **Abraham** to bless the world through him.
• God made a covenant with Moses at Mt Sinai when He gave the law and the people agreed to keep it.

3. The Old Covenant of Law had a fundamental fault line running through it. The fault was not God for having given such an extreme law, but a fault of the people was exposed by the extreme law.
4. Now there will be a **New Covenant**, based on a **New Principle**. Read and consider Hebrews 8:6
5. The Old Covenant was based on Obligations. The New Covenant is based on Promises. There is a vital distinction between the two. The onus of the Old Covenant was on People's Ability: 'You shall not , etc. etc.

The New Covenant is based on God's Ability:
Hebrews 8:10, 8:10b, 8:12
6. This involves the same Law that God gave to Abraham on Mt. Sinai, but instead of being EXTERNAL [tablets of stone] it will be INTERNAL 'written on their hearts]
7. This New Covenant does NOT abolish the law.
It is the revelation of **God's unchanging moral character**. This is the 'image' in which we are made.
God creates new desires: Hunger and thirst for righteousness.
Read and consider Philippians 2:13 and 1:11
8. This 'law on our hearts' is possible from knowing God.
Read and consider 2 Peter 1:3 and 2 Peter 3:18. Knowledge of God is not 'academic', but spiritual. It is not 'propositional 'believing a creed] but experiential. **To grow in knowledge of God is to grow in Experience of God.**
9. Under the Old Covenant sin was never removed – it was just covered. Read and consider Hebrews 10:1. It did not transform anyone...and it needed constant repetition. Hebrews 10:11

10. Death – that might forgive and remember no more.
Resurrection – that we might know Him [the risen Christ]
And the power of His resurrection.
Pentecost – The Holy Spirit writes His Law on our hearts.

Are you living in this freedom of the New Covenant?

Hebrews Series

PART 6 – RAIDING THE LOST ARK

Hebrews 9:1-5

1. The Ark of the Covenant has always raised a lot of interest, with many books written about it, and a few notable films made about it.
2.
 - i. A lampstand.
 - ii. A Table of consecrated bread.
 - iii. A Golden Altar of Incense.
 - iv. The gold covered Ark of the Covenant.
 Read and consider Exodus 25:32
3. There were no windows in the Tabernacle, so this was a source of light. It used pure olive oil that was freshly pressed and renewed every evening so that through long hours of night, it throws back the darkness, and gives light; representing the presence and work of the Holy Spirit.

This is only a 'shadow'. The 'reality is found in John 8:12, and in Matthew 5:12
4. 12 loaves were placed there every week, which the priest takes and eats symbolizing the strengthening and sustaining that the bread brings.

PART 7 – LIVING BY FAITH IN GOD

Scripture: Hebrews 11:1-40

This is only a 'shadow'. The 'reality is found in John 6:35.

If Christ is not our bread, we will always be hungry for something else.

5. The chief function of this altar **was not to offer a sacrifice**, but to **offer an aroma that was pleasing to God**.

This is only a 'shadow'. The 'reality is found in 2 Corinthians 2:14-16. The Apostle Paul says 'We smell of Christ'. It is always a wonderful thing to meet someone who we sense is a Christian, before we know.

6. **This too is only a 'shadow' to demonstrate the 'Meaning of His Presence'**. The **'reality is found in:** The Commands of the Old Covenant = the Promises of the New Covenant.

7. Ingredient 1: What do the **Stone Tablets of the Covenant** represent, being the original content, represent – The Purpose of God.

8. The Gold Jar of Manna represented **The Provision of God**.

9. There was life in Aaron's staff because God had appointed him. When God sets someone apart, there is life and fruit that lasts. It is not a flash-in-the-pan. Aarons' budding staff represented the **Power of God**. Read and consider John 15:5

10. **Stone Tablets of the Covenant** – the PURPOSE of God Restores us to His Image & Likeness

The Gold Jar of Manna – the PROVISION of God
We can never be satisfied outside the fullness of God.

Aaron's Staff that Budded – the POWER of God
When God gives you something to do, there will be fruit.
And if you are challenged – relax – fruit will speak for itself.

**But all of this is only a shadow;
the reality is ours as we live in union with Christ.**

1. It has been said that **the Hinges of History are Determined by Wars**. Also, History is written by the victors who are always portrayed as the good guys. It is also true that history turns on individuals. So it is that Hebrews 11 names 15 Old Testament people, plus scores of others whose lives the history of Israel turned.
2. All these people in Hebrews 11, named and unnamed, were all described as they "Lived By Faith". In thus one chapter alone the word 'faith', 'by faith' or 'through faith' appears 28 times, compared to only 16 times in the entire Old Testament.
3. 'Faith' as a Noun...Is **the fundamental set of doctrines** without which Christianity would collapse. 'Faith' as a Verb...**an active dependence on God**. The characteristics of life that are inexplicable apart from God.

If 'Faith' is a NOUN without being a VERB, our Christian Life may be 'sound', even intellectually stimulating, but it will be dead and experientially bankrupt.

If 'Faith; is a VERB without being a NOUN it may leave us full of confidence but devoid of substance – it will fail us. God will not live up to our expectations because our expectation was not founded on truth.

What we need is an intelligent understanding of **THE FAITH** [noun], that leads to a full experience of **FAITH in God** [verb]

4. First we read about success, triumph and victory, and then we read about discomfort, brokenness, suffering and death.

5. None of these people received what had been promised, but were able to look beyond their own limited span, to a much bigger picture. We live in a society that wants instant gratification but we need to heed the warning of Isaiah 5:19 – read and consider.
6. Jacob – he was initially a rascal, a cheat and a liar.
Rahab – she ran a brothel in Jericho and may well have been a prostitute herself.
Samson – he was a bully, violent and a womanizer.
Jephthah – he celebrated a victory by sacrificing his own young daughter.
7. If we put **Character** first our Christian life may be a course of ‘behavior modification’. We would tend to gravitate towards legalism and judgmentalism.

More important is our Faith ‘**Trust in God**. Our character is the inevitable by-product of being **reconciled to God**, and **living in union and relationship with Him**.
8. The **OBJECT** of our faith is **GOD**, therefore we must get to know Him. The **KEY** to living by faith in God is not mustering up faith, but **getting to KNOW God**—who is the **object of our faith**.

Hebrews Series

PART 8 – RUN THE RACE TO THE END

Hebrews 12:1- 11

1. The idea of the Christian life being a race is frequent in Paul’s writings. Read also: Acts 20:24; 2 Timothy 4:7; 1 Corinthians 9:24; Galatians 5:7; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27.

2.
 - i. Hebrews 2:1 – Warns about the dangers of drifting away.
 - ii. Hebrews 3:12 – Warns about having an unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.
 - iii. Hebrews 12:12 – To strengthen their feeble arms and weak knees.

Read and consider Hebrews 12:1-2. Our walk with God today is not a guarantee of tomorrow. Drifting, complacency, falling out of the race, are dangers for us all.

3. It is unlikely that he is talking about a crowd of spectators leaning out of heaven and cheering us on. He is more likely referring to the crowd of people written about in Hebrews 11. Their lives are witnesses to us of the faithfulness of God.
4. There are things that ‘hinder, and there are things that ‘entangle’. Things that hinder are things that entangle. Things that entangle may not be intentional, but we get diverted, wrapped up in them, slowed down and sidetracked. We must lay aside not only entangling sins, but everything that becomes an obstacle, or diversion, to Christ. Read and consider Hebrews 4:1 which teaches us that the Christian Life is both ‘Resting’ and a ‘Wrestling’.
5. Read and consider Matthew 11:28-30 – Concerning Resting And Hebrews 4:9-11 – Concerning Wrestling. Some other important scripture to consider: Hebrews 12:4; Hebrews 12:5-6; Hebrews 9 26 and 28; Galatians 6:8
6. We can be tempted to fix our eyes on the difficulties, but we must fix our eyes on Jesus. We should go to His Word; read, meditate, discuss and absorb. Don’t go to a fantasy about Him...But go to His Word.
7. He is the One who started it, and He is the One who will complete it. **He is more committed to us than we are to Him**.
8. He does not change with the passage of time. **There is a race to be run. Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us**.

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