

# THE HALL OF FAITH

Hebrews 11:1-40

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#### Overview of Hebrews

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- 1. 1:1-4:13 pay attention to God's final word in the Son; *don't imitate the unfaithful*
- 2. 4:14-10:18 the better, all-sufficient High Priesthood of the incarnate, exalted Son
- 3. 10:19-12:29 the perseverance of God's people through Christ; *imitate the faithful*

<sup>34</sup> For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one...

38 BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH;
AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM.

<sup>39</sup> But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.

## Function of Hebrews 11

- 1) the lives of these faithful of old demonstrate the nature of the faith we are to imitate
- 2) the perseverance of those who have gone before serves as motivation for our perseverance

This history of the past faithful reaches it grand finale in Christ – "the pioneer and perfecter of faith"

### Hebrews 11:1-6

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<sup>1</sup> Now faith is the reality of *things* hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. <sup>2</sup> For by it the men of old gained approval. <sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible. <sup>4</sup> By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.

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#### Hebrews 11:1-6

<sup>5</sup> By faith Enoch was taken up so that he would not see death; AND HE WAS NOT FOUND BECAUSE GOD TOOK HIM UP; for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God. <sup>6</sup> And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

## The Nature of Faith

- 1. Faith is the *reality* of things hoped for
  - faith binds the believer securely to the reality of the future, yet unseen, promise of God
  - faith is living in accord with the reality of things hoped for — living as if they are real

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## The Nature of Faith

- 2. Faith is the evidence of things not seen
  - faith is the objective proof of the unseen reality of God and the heavenly realm
  - the lives of believes demonstrate the present reality of God, His power and promise

## The Nature of Faith

- 3. Faith is the means of God's approval
  - it is by this faith that OT believers received God's decisive testimony that they were righteous
  - today, this faith is in Christ alone as the "unseen" reality of God's power to save and inherit the promise

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