

ARE WE SURE OF WHAT WE HOPE FOR? ~ Hebrews 11:1-3

→ Scripture Reading Hebrews 11:1-6

INTRODUCTION

THEMES OF THE BOOK OF HEBREWS...

- Jesus is SUPERIOR
- do not GO BACK
- you Must PERSEVERE

BECAUSE OF ALL THE STUNNING TRUTHS ABOUT JESUS OUR SAVIOR AND HIGH PRIEST... Piper

>He Gave Himself ONCE for all as a FINAL sacrifice for OUR sins (10:12)

Heb.10:12 (NIV) But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God.

>He Perfects us forever by ONE SACRIFICE (10:14)

Heb. 10:14 (NIV) ...by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

>He Gives us a clean CONSCIENCE by His OWN blood (9:14)

Heb. 9:14 (NIV) How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

>He is OUR Sympathetic - Approachable high priest (4:14-16)

Heb. 4:15-16 (NIV) For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet was without sin. [16] Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our TIME of NEED.

>He is ALWAYS (every day) INTERCEDING for us in heaven (7:25)

Heb. 7:25 (NIV)...he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

>He has Promised NEVER to leave us or forsake us (13:5-6)

Heb. 13:5 (NIV) Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

CONTEXT FLOWING FROM CHAPTER 10

[10:32] Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you stood your ground in a great contest in the face of suffering. [33] Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. [34] You sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you KNEW that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions.

FAITH - ASSURANCE AND CONVICTION ~ Hebrews 11:1-2

[1] Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

FAITH Believes/Trusts Life App Com

- God IS who He says He is
- God will DO what He says He will do

[2] This is what the ancients were commended for.

FAITH produces HOPE, and HOPE produces PERSEVERANCE. Without FAITH one will inevitably shrink back and NOT persevere. Hughes

The life of FAITH is the only life that PLEASES God. Guthrie

APPLICATION

Hebrews 10:34-36 (NLT) You suffered along with those who were thrown into jail, and when ALL YOU OWNED was TAKEN from you, you **accepted it with joy**. You KNEW there were better things waiting for you that will last forever. [35] So do not throw away this CONFIDENT TRUST in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you! [36] PATIENT ENDURANCE is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised.

FAITH AND UNDERSTANDING ~ Hebrews 11:3

[3] **By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.**

Romans 1:20 (NIV) For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

Eyesight produces a conviction about objects in the physical world. FAITH produces the same convictions for the invisible order. Holman NT Com

APPLICATION

John 1:3 (NIV) Through him ALL things were MADE; without him nothing was made that has been made.

Colossians 1:15-17 (NIV) He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. [16] For **by him ALL things were CREATED**: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; **ALL things were CREATED by him and for him.** [17] He is before all things, and **in him ALL things HOLD TOGETHER.**

TAKE AWAY ??

2 Corinthians 12:10 (NIV) That is why, **for Christ's sake, I DELIGHT** in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.**

2 Corinthians 12:7-9 (NIV) To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. [8] Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. [9] But he said to me, **"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."** Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. ...[10] **for Christ's sake, I DELIGHT** in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.**

Hebrews 4:14-16 (NIV) Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. [15] For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin. [16] Let us then **approach the throne of grace with confidence**, so that **we may RECEIVE MERCY and FIND GRACE to help us in our time of need.**

FAITH IS BELIEVING Beth Moore

- God is WHO He says He IS
- God can do WHAT He SAYS He can Do
- I am WHO God SAYS I am
- I can do ALL things THROUGH Christ
- God's Word is ALIVE and ACTIVE in me