

## Strong Faith Hebrews 11:1-6

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

Without faith, it's impossible to \_\_\_\_\_ God. What kind of faith does God \_\_\_\_\_ from His people? What does a strong faith \_\_\_\_\_ like when it's challenged? The Word of God gives us the answer. Paul said, "faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ" (Romans 10:17). The more we read and study God's Word, the \_\_\_\_\_ our faith will become. The more we \_\_\_\_\_ God's Word, the better we'll know God and His will for our lives. Nothing can replace a serious study of Scripture to help you \_\_\_\_\_ in faith. Paul commended the elders of the church at Ephesus "to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified" (Acts 20:32). We need God's Word to build us up spiritually and to \_\_\_\_\_ us go to heaven.

To say, "I believe," means placing your complete \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord Jesus. It means trusting in God when you may not fully \_\_\_\_\_ what lies ahead. Faith stands firm in your trust of God's \_\_\_\_\_ even when life is filled with unsettling circumstances. Faith means taking God at His Word, regardless of what \_\_\_\_\_ say. Faith means being willing to act in \_\_\_\_\_ out of trust in the character and the authority of God Himself. We trust His Word, because we trust Him.

What we know about God, how He's dealt with people in the past, should speak to what we see for the \_\_\_\_\_. It should tell us what God will do. The Lord Jesus said, "If anyone is willing to \_\_\_\_\_ His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it's of God or whether I speak from Myself" (John 7:17). Are you willing to do His will? Do you trust God?

### **Our reading today comes from the book of Hebrews 11:1-6.**

Hebrews 11:6 says, "And without faith it's impossible to \_\_\_\_\_ Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He's a rewarder of those who \_\_\_\_\_ Him." Faith is essential to our \_\_\_\_\_ and to living the Christian life. Faith makes a remarkable difference in how we \_\_\_\_\_, how we \_\_\_\_\_, and how we \_\_\_\_\_ others.

There's a \_\_\_\_\_ difference between those who believe in Christ and those who don't know Him or believe in Him. When people really believe and put their faith into \_\_\_\_\_, they make the world brighter, more loving, more positive, more joyful, more hopeful, and closer to God. When people don't know God or have no faith in Him, they lack the \_\_\_\_\_ that comes from God; they lack the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. Without faith, they often \_\_\_\_\_ to fairy tales and myths. They build for themselves \_\_\_\_\_ that cannot talk, cannot hear their prayers, and cannot help them in a time of trouble. They live futile lives.

The Scriptures teach us of people who put their faith into practice and found the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. Hebrews 11:2 says, "For by it (that is, by faith) the men of God gained \_\_\_\_\_." God blesses true believers. Hebrews 11 gives many \_\_\_\_\_ of faith in action.

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Hebrews 11:7 says, “By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence \_\_\_\_\_ an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.” Noah took what God told him to heart. He built an ark to the \_\_\_\_\_ of his family. Genesis 6:22 says, “Thus Noah did; according to all that God had commanded him, so he did.” Real faith is not \_\_\_\_\_; it is active and living. It reveals itself by \_\_\_\_\_ what God commands.

Hebrews 11: 8 says, “By faith Abraham, when he was called, \_\_\_\_\_ by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going.” God made a covenant with Abraham and made him a \_\_\_\_\_ that he would make of him a great nation. God called Abraham at the age of seventy-five, when he lived in Haran and told him to go to the land of Canaan. Abraham obeyed, even though he didn’t \_\_\_\_\_ how God would accomplish all these things or when. Faith obeys even when it doesn’t understand all the \_\_\_\_\_ why, or the ways how, or even when.

Faith \_\_\_\_\_ us to trust God and to be obedient to His Word. Do you believe the Bible is God’s Word? Do you believe that God created the world in six days and created you? Do you believe in heaven and in hell? Believing God means believing what we’ve been \_\_\_\_\_. If we don’t believe what God says in His inspired Word, we really don’t believe God.

Do you believe the Bible is \_\_\_\_\_? Do you believe God has \_\_\_\_\_ authority? Do you \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord in all that He instructs? He tells us what to believe and what to do. Are you willing to \_\_\_\_\_ God’s Word, even when it disagrees with your friends, and family, and neighbors? Are you willing to \_\_\_\_\_ your thinking on every subject to what the Bible says? Are you willing to do what the Bible says, even if you don’t \_\_\_\_\_ to? Do you believe God’s promises will \_\_\_\_\_ true?

To claim “I believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God and Lord” means that I’ve given myself to Him and will believe what He \_\_\_\_\_. Faith is not \_\_\_\_\_ in what it believes. It doesn’t say that it believes \_\_\_\_\_ things that Jesus teaches while \_\_\_\_\_ other things. If one believes Jesus is truly God’s Son, risen from the dead and knows all things, one believes Him completely. He will stand with Jesus even when the whole \_\_\_\_\_ disagrees.

Great faith is the answer to \_\_\_\_\_. To believe in God’s promises helps us to \_\_\_\_\_ in the best way with the challenges of life. When we believe, we know God will take \_\_\_\_\_ of us. Even if we should \_\_\_\_\_ for our faith, we lose the love of God when we don’t believe. When the disciples thought the storm on the Sea of Galilee would overtake them, Jesus said to them, “Why are you \_\_\_\_\_? How is it that you have no faith?” (Mark 4:40). We all face frightening storms, but when the Lord is with us, we must not abandon all \_\_\_\_\_. The apostle Peter, inspired of God, \_\_\_\_\_ the church for the Roman persecution. **Read 1 Peter 3:13-17.**

Strong faith in Christ will determine \_\_\_\_\_ we will live. There’s a significant difference between those who truly believe and those who \_\_\_\_\_. Our faith in God’s teaching will determine our \_\_\_\_\_ and our \_\_\_\_\_. Since God’s Word is final and authoritative, we

reject the notion that morals are relative and dependent on circumstances. God's morality matters. Since we believe the Lord will \_\_\_\_\_ us on the last day by His Word and by our deeds, there are firm reasons to be moral beings, to love and respect others, and to live with integrity and honesty.

Only faith in a God to whom we must \_\_\_\_\_ provides the constant motivation for right living. **Read how Paul warned the Athenian philosophers in Acts 17:30-31.** If I believe, I cannot keep on doing the things that are \_\_\_\_\_. If I believe, I can't keep on lying, I can't keep on stealing, using foul language, gossiping, getting drunk, coveting other men's possessions; I can't keep on committing acts of fornication, or taking vengeance, and many other sins. I must regard myself as \_\_\_\_\_ to sin and \_\_\_\_\_ to righteousness. Faith doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ some sins as wrong and some as insignificant. To believe God means to believe \_\_\_\_\_ sin is hurtful, destructive, and wrong. Are you willing to sacrifice friendship with the world to be a Christian?

It should never \_\_\_\_\_ us that the world is worldly, filled with selfish ambition, lusts, and the desire to overthrow the \_\_\_\_\_ God placed upon us. Many have cast off the teaching of God in Scripture for their \_\_\_\_\_ opinions, morals, and desires. This rejection of faith in God shows \_\_\_\_\_ our society is in a moral mess and full of chaos. **Read how the apostle Paul described the pagan world of the first century in Ephesians 4:17-19.** When people \_\_\_\_\_ to give themselves to God, they start giving themselves to sin.

One talk show recently suggested that we \_\_\_\_\_ in a post-fact world. That is, people don't want the \_\_\_\_\_ if they disagree with their preconceived ideas or agendas. Some in our culture are driven more by their \_\_\_\_\_ than by their \_\_\_\_\_. They follow their passions and follow their friends rather than \_\_\_\_\_ the truth. They do what they \_\_\_\_\_ to do rather than what they \_\_\_\_\_ to do. When our desires rule over our duties, when our lusts overrule our morals, when our emotions overrule the facts, we are indeed living a \_\_\_\_\_ headed for ruin. Like the prodigal, we'll one day find total permissiveness \_\_\_\_\_ us to a pig pen.

How badly we \_\_\_\_\_ faith, a confident trust in what God says to be \_\_\_\_\_! When we leave the Truth, the way things really are as God \_\_\_\_\_ them, we're left with chaos and confusion. Without God's revealed will, we don't \_\_\_\_\_ where we came from, why we're here, or what will happen to us once this life is over. Without God's instructions, we're on a \_\_\_\_\_ to destruction. We need God's teaching, God's salvation, God's providence, and God's instructions. The Lord Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by \_\_\_\_\_ that comes from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). Without God's teaching there is no real nourishment for the \_\_\_\_\_.

Many people have bought into the idea that they should never express their faith to others, but should keep it \_\_\_\_\_. They believe we should \_\_\_\_\_ anything "Christian" from the public square. They would \_\_\_\_\_ Christianity from every aspect of life. When you \_\_\_\_\_ faith in Christ, you're promoting faith in something futile, something that cannot save you or give you eternal life. You're advocating a faith \_\_\_\_\_ on things less than God, less

than moral, and less than true. When faith in Christ is \_\_\_\_\_, people place their faith in a fantasy!

Belief in the God of the Bible is not like believing in an \_\_\_\_\_ or in some humanly manufactured religion. Belief in God is not some \_\_\_\_\_ leap of faith. Belief in God is built upon \_\_\_\_\_ evidence found in our created world, found in Scripture, found in history, found in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and found in our very nature as moral beings. The DNA in every cell of your body and mine could \_\_\_\_\_ come from a great intelligence. The universe with stars, and planets, and moons could only come from a great \_\_\_\_\_. The moral conscientiousness that's inside your \_\_\_\_\_ could only come from a moral governor. The moral and spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ found in Scripture could only come from a Divine source. Yes, there is a God in heaven, who made you, who loves you, who sent His Son to die for you, and who will one day \_\_\_\_\_ you by His Word.

Since God is \_\_\_\_\_, don't hesitate to come to Him, to know Him, to love Him, and to obey Him. Don't hesitate to give yourself \_\_\_\_\_ to Him. Coming to Christ means denying ourselves and taking up our crosses to \_\_\_\_\_ Him. True faith involves a \_\_\_\_\_ commitment. Paul said, "I have been crucified with Christ; and it's no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by \_\_\_\_\_ in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me" (Galatians 2:20). Have you made a full commitment to Christ or are you wavering in your faith? Jesus Christ fully committed Himself to you upon the \_\_\_\_\_ for your sins in the hope that you would respond to His love by fully trusting and \_\_\_\_\_ Him. Love Him, trust Him, and serve Him! If you believe, don't hesitate any longer.

People frequently tell themselves things that simply aren't true rather than having to deal with what God \_\_\_\_\_. They put off making any decision or commitment. They think somehow everything will be okay in the \_\_\_\_\_ regardless of what they believe or do. Oh, it would be \_\_\_\_\_ to face the Lord in judgment spiritually unprepared. I don't know of any promise of God to \_\_\_\_\_ the unbeliever or the disobedient.

We don't like to think that anyone would be \_\_\_\_\_; but we mustn't presume upon the grace of God. We have no \_\_\_\_\_ of salvation apart from grace, or apart from faith, or apart from repentance, or apart from obedience. We want the \_\_\_\_\_. We don't want any \_\_\_\_\_ on the day of judgment. We don't want to be \_\_\_\_\_, thinking that we're saved, and then finding out we're rejected.

God will save those who place their \_\_\_\_\_ in Him, those who \_\_\_\_\_ of their sins, and those who are willing to \_\_\_\_\_ His word. **Read James 1:22-25.** If you truly believe in Jesus Christ, if you repent of your sins, if you turn your heart to the teaching of Christ, if you confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God and you're baptized into Christ and you do that for the forgiveness of your sins, God can save you and He will. Baptism is not for little children but for those who are old enough to really believe and to repent. When you're baptized, God will wash away all of your sins; He'll make you His child; and you'll have His blessing only if you remain faithful. Oh, will you be baptized, and will you remain faithful?