



# THE ONLY WAY TO LIVE

Preaching and Teaching Resources

ADRIAN ROGERS





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# The Only Way to Live

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Hebrews 10:38

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #2382

The Book of Hebrews describes the heroes of our faith and explains how those heroes exemplified the only way to live.

Hebrews 10:38 says, “Now the just shall live by faith; but if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.”

Many of us are plagued with worry, guilt, or loneliness; but there is not one problem that faith does not have an answer for. This is why it is crucial that we know what faith is, and how to have it.

Faith is not blind superstition, positive thinking, or a feeling of optimism. Rather, it is confidence that rests in hope, conviction that sees the invisible, and communication that comes from Heaven.

Hebrews 11:1-2 says, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.”

Faith can't be altered by appearances or fettered by feelings. Our emotions are the shallowest part of our nature, while faith is the deepest work of God. And in a world that must see to believe, the Bible instructs us to believe in order to see. Faith is not limited by logic; it simply goes beyond it and becomes its own best logic.

We must also understand the dynamics of our faith. Adrian Rogers explains, “Faith is the heart's response to the character of God.” Only after we accept God through faith will we receive the wisdom to understand His works and the ability to worship. Faith—not fame or fortune—is the medium of exchange in the kingdom of God.

Finally, a life of faith is destined to find, follow, and finish the will of God.

Hebrews 12:1-2 says, “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith...”

To win this race, we must be motivated by the saints of old and separated from the weight of the world. Repenting of our sins, we run the race of life with our eyes set on the Savior above.

## Life Application

Is your faith real, growing, and developing through wisdom and worship? Are you actively finding, following, and finishing the will of God?



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## 1) INTRODUCTION

- a) We live in an age where we call many people “stars” or “idols:” movie stars, sports idols.
- b) We have too many stars and too many idols and not enough heroes.
- c) We will learn about Bible heroes in the series “Champions of Faith” as we study Hebrews chapter 11.
- d) Hebrews 11 is set up by Hebrews 10:38 which says, “Now the just shall live by faith.”
  - i) “The just shall live by faith” is a quotation from the book of Habakkuk.
    - (1) Habakkuk 2:4
    - ii) Habakkuk lived in a day of violence, degradation, apostasy, danger.
    - iii) Habakkuk asked God to explain how he could get along in such a life.
      - (1) God told Habakkuk that he could not understand even if He told him what He was doing.
    - iv) God told Habakkuk his responsibility was to live in an uncertain age by faith.
    - v) We do not by explanations, but by faith.
      - (1) This is the only way to live.
    - vi) This Scripture is quoted three times in the Bible to emphasize: we are to live by faith.
  - e) Faith is the answer to every problem we have.
    - i) Worry
      - (1) Worry is a lack of faith.
        - (a) Worry is a mild form of atheism.
      - (2) Worry is a way of saying, “God, this problem is too big for You.”
      - (3) Worry is just faith turned inside out. And faith is worry turned inside out.
      - (4) If you’re prone to worry, you need to strengthen your faith.
    - ii) Loneliness
      - (1) Faith makes God real to you.
      - (2) You are never alone when you have genuine faith because faith brings Him near.
    - iii) Guilt
      - (1) Something you hope nobody finds out about but that you cannot forget.
      - (2) You’re not able to set yourself free from a burden of guilt you carry.
      - (3) We have guilt because of a lack of faith.
      - (4) But faith understands that the blood of Jesus Christ has atoned for our sins.
      - (5) Faith is my acceptance of God’s acceptance of me.
        - (a) God receives us not because of our own goodness, but when we come to Him just in faith.
          - (i) Romans 5:1
      - iv) Disobedience
        - (1) We have trouble obeying the Word of God because we don’t believe it.



- (a) Malachi 3:10
  - (i) We desire God to pour His blessings upon us.
  - (ii) But not all of us tithe.
    - 1. Because we do not believe that promise.
    - 2. Because we do not believe the Word of God.

## 2) THE DESCRIPTION OF A LIFE OF FAITH

- a) A life of faith is the only way to live.
- b) Hebrews 11:1-2
- c) What faith is not:
  - i) Faith is not blind superstition.
    - (1) It is amazing not only what people will not believe, but what they will believe.
    - (2) Faith is not closing your eyes to reality.
  - ii) Faith is not positive thinking or a feeling of optimism.
    - (1) Faith is not the same as positive thinking and optimism.
      - (a) But it may lead to that.
  - iii) Faith is not a leap in the dark.
    - (1) To the contrary, it is stepping in the light.
  - iv) It is not faith in faith.
    - (1) Mark 11:22
    - (2) Just believing will not make it so; have faith in God.
- d) What is faith?
  - i) A confidence that rests in hope.
    - (1) Hebrews 11:1
      - (a) "Confidence" is the word used for "substance" in some Bible translations.
        - (i) It means assurance, as in a title deed that assures ownership.
        - (b) Sub-stand: something beneath that we stand on.
      - (2) "Hope" here does not mean perhaps, wish or desire.
      - (3) "Hope" in the Bible means rock-ribbed assurance based on divine revelation.
        - (a) The Second Coming of Jesus is called "The Blessed Hope."
          - (i) It is not the blessed maybe.
          - (b) It is rock-ribbed assurance based on the promises of the Word of God.
      - (4) Faith is the confidence that what God has said is true and He will perform it.
      - (5) There is no legitimate faith without hope and no legitimate hope without faith.
    - ii) A conviction that sees the invisible.
      - (1) "Evidence" literally means a conviction.
        - (a) Jesus used this same word for "evidence" as, "Which of you convict Me of sin?"
          - (i) John 8:46
      - (2) Faith in your heart is a conviction of something you've not yet seen.
        - (a) Something does not have to be seen for it to be real.
      - (3) There is an invisible world all around us; the electronic world.
        - (a) Movies, newscasts, music, etc.
          - (i) All of these are in the air, but we tune them out.



- (b) Colossians 1:16
    - (i) Do not think that everything that is real is communicated to us by our five senses; there is a sixth sense.
      - 1. There is an invisible world.
    - (c) Faith enables the believer to treat the future as present and the invisible as seen.
  - iii) A communication that comes from Heaven.
    - (1) Hebrews 11:2
      - (a) "It" in this Scripture refers to faith.
    - (2) "Good Report" in this passage is God speaking from Heaven.
      - (a) It is not the elders' reputation but God's revelation that is spoken of here.
- e) If we put this confidence, conviction and communication together in our heart, we have something glorious and wonderful; faith.
  - i) The only way to live is to live by faith.
- f) Faith should not be altered by appearances.
  - i) Hebrews 11:1
  - ii) When you live by faith, you live above "see" level.
  - iii) The world says, "Seeing is believing."
  - iv) The Bible says, "Believing is seeing."
    - (1) John 20:29
    - (2) 1 Peter 1:8
      - (a) This verse is speaking of Jesus.
      - (b) By faith, we see the invisible.
  - v) Do not let any so-called appearances make a lie out of the Word of God in your heart and mind.
- g) Faith should not be fettered by feelings.
  - i) Faith is confidence that goes beyond emotions.
    - (1) Emotions are the shallowest part of our nature. Faith is the deepest work of God. God does not do His deepest work in the shallowest part.
      - (a) Do not live your life under the tyranny of emotions.
  - ii) There is nothing wrong with feeling good, but feelings are fickle.
- h) Faith is not limited by logic.
  - i) Faith is not contrary to logic, it goes beyond logic.
  - ii) Sometimes we make a leap of faith where logic leaves off.
    - (1) Faith is rooted in logic.
    - (2) Faith goes beyond logic.
    - (3) Faith becomes its own logic.
    - (4) Faith is not limited by logic.
  - iii) The disciples questioned how Jesus could feed the 5,000.
    - (1) Philip used logic to try to figure how impossible it was.
    - (2) When Jesus asked, "How are we going to feed these People?" He was not looking for information.
    - (3) Jesus knew what He was going to do, He wanted Philip to learn something about a miracle.



- iv) If you are adding up an equation, you will never get the right answer if you leave out one of the elements.
  - (1) Philip left God out; he was figuring without God.
  - (2) Logically, it was right.
  - (3) But faith is not limited by logic; bring God into your calculations.

### 3) THE DYNAMICS OF A LIFE OF FAITH

- a) Faith is the dynamic of spiritual wisdom.
  - i) There are things that we will never understand apart from faith.
  - ii) Hebrews 11:3
    - (1) The visible is made out of the invisible.
  - iii) God is not explained or argued in the Bible but simply presented.
  - iv) God must be accepted by faith.
    - (1) Hebrews 11:6
  - v) The finite cannot prove the infinite.
  - vi) The skeptic accepts by faith that there is no God.
    - (1) All people are believers.
      - (a) There are those who believe in God and those who believe there is no God.
  - vii) Science is the study of phenomena now existing.
    - (1) Job 38:4
  - viii) Science cannot explain or disprove God; it takes faith.
    - (1) It takes more faith to believe that “Nothing times nobody equals everything.”
  - ix) Psalm 14:1
    - (1) God is the supreme fact and the man who denies it is the supreme fool.
  - x) Faith is not contrary to reason, it is just simply beyond reason.
- b) Faith is the dynamic of spiritual worship.
  - i) Hebrews 11:6
    - (1) Worship is pleasing to God.
  - ii) God is not under any obligation to prove Himself to us.
    - (1) Faith is not a response to proof; that is what the disciple Thomas demanded.
      - (a) John 20:29
  - iii) Faith is the heart’s response to God’s character.
    - (1) Jesus left Heaven and came to Earth in a very ordinary, nondescript way.
      - (a) Isaiah 53:2
    - (2) Judas had to point Him out in the Garden so they could take Him away.
      - (a) John 18:3-5
    - (3) In Jesus was all the glory, serenity, dignity, majesty, purity and all the character of God in human flesh.
      - (a) But not because of outward extravagance.
      - (b) He was not born in a palace, but in a stable.
    - (4) When Jesus did miracles, they were not publicity stunts and He often told people not to speak of the miracle.
      - (a) He did not want that kind of follow-ship.



- (5) When your eye is right, it responds to light. When your ear is right, it responds to sound. When your heart is right it responds to God and that response is called faith.
  - (a) Hebrews 3:12
- (6) Unbelief comes from the heart, not the head.
- (7) Faith honors God and God honors faith.
- c) Faith is the dynamic of spiritual wealth.
  - i) Hebrews 11:6
    - (1) How do we seek Him? By faith.
    - (2) Matthew 9:29
  - ii) Not according to fame, feeling, future, fortune, friends or fate, but according to your faith.
    - (1) Faith is the medium of exchange in the Kingdom of Heaven.
      - (a) Mark 11:24
      - (2) Pray and believe, you will receive. Pray in doubt, you do without.
  - iii) God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
  - iv) Your spiritual strength, wealth and reserves are all according to your faith.

#### 4) THE DESTINATION OF THE LIFE OF FAITH

- a) Life is a journey; we are headed somewhere.
  - i) It is not a casual journey, it is a race.
- b) Hebrews 12:1-2
  - i) The only way to live the life of faith, is a life that has a destination.
- c) In the race of life, the goal is to find, follow and finish the will of God.
  - i) This is the destination of faith.
- d) We are to be motivated by the saints around us.
  - i) Hebrews 12:1
    - (1) We cannot see them, but they are there.
    - (2) "Great cloud of witnesses" refers to the champions of faith who have gone on before.
    - (3) The unseen gallery of the great watch and cheer us on as we run the race.
- e) We are to be separated from the surplus upon us.
  - i) Many of us carry extra, unnecessary things that weigh us down.
    - (1) Hebrews 12:1
      - (a) These are not sins, these are weights.
      - (b) When we run a race, we lay aside anything that will weigh us down.
  - ii) Don't ask, "Is it right or wrong?" Ask, "Is it a weight or a wing?"
    - (1) Never exchange wings for weights.
  - iii) Some things are not inherently bad, but must be laid aside.
- f) We are to be liberated from the snares beneath us.
  - i) Hebrews 12:1
  - ii) A sin that "besets" is something that you keep wrestling with, that keeps tripping you up.
    - (1) "Beset" means to entangle you.
  - iii) "Lay it aside" means to come to grips with it; to be done with it.
  - iv) Sin is the great enemy of faith.
    - (1) Hebrews 3:12
  - v) Your heart will respond in faith when your heart is right.
    - (1) If you are having trouble with faith, try repentance.



- vi) In the Bible, it is always “repentance and faith,” never “faith and repentance.”
  - (1) Get the sin out of the soil of your life and your faith will grow.
- vii) No sin is worth God not answering your prayers.
  - (1) Set it aside and let it go.
- g) We are to be activated for the race before us.
  - i) Hebrews 12:1
    - (1) “Patience” means determination.
  - ii) God does business with those who do business.
  - iii) God has a course for you and you’re to get on the track to run.
- h) We are to be dedicated to the Savior above us.
  - i) Hebrews 12:2
  - ii) It is not great faith in God that you need, but faith in a great God.
  - iii) Faith is the byproduct of looking unto Jesus, who is the author and finisher of our faith.

### 5) CONCLUSION

- a) You can exist without faith, but you will never live without faith.
- b) John 10:10
- c) You can put your faith where God has put your sins, on Jesus Christ.
- d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16



# The Only Way to Live

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Hebrews 10:38

The title of the message, “The Only Way to Live.” We live in an age where we have a lot of people who are called stars, movie stars. And we have a lot of people who are called idols. Sports idols. In my humble but accurate opinion, we have too many stars and too many idols and not enough heroes. I’m going to be talking to you today about heroes, Bible heroes. The title of this series that we’re going to be in is this, “Champions of Faith.”

We’re going to study primarily in the eleventh chapter of the book of Hebrews about champions of faith. But that chapter is set up by Hebrews chapter 10, if you’ll find that for just a moment. And I want you to notice verse 38. Hebrews chapter 10 and verse 38. Here is a great statement, and it is so abundantly and imminently true. *“Now the just shall live by faith.” “The just shall live by faith.”*

Now that, friend, is a quotation from the Old Testament. It’s a quotation from the book of Habakkuk chapter 2 verse 4. Habakkuk was perplexed. He lived in a day of violence, a day of degradation, a day of apostasy, a day of danger. And he bombarded Heaven, and he wanted God to answer. He wanted God to explain things so he could get along in life as it is and God said, “Habakkuk, you couldn’t understand if I told you what I’m up to. You think I’m not working? I’m working and Habakkuk, here is your responsibility. You are to live in this uncertain age by faith. You want Me to tell you how to live? Don’t live by explanations. Live by faith.” Now, that’s not a lot of hocus pocus, smoke and mirrors. We’re going to see that has spiritual steel and concrete in it. But, “The just shall live by faith.” That is the only way to live. As a matter of fact, this Scripture is quoted here in Hebrews. It’s quoted again in other places in the Word of God. I wonder if God is trying to tell us something. Well, I know He is. *“The just shall live by faith.”* So we’re going to be talking about faith today.

Now, you have some problems and I have some problems. There’s not a problem that we have that does not relate itself somehow to faith as the answer. For example, worry. Anybody worry? I think that’s almost pandemic in our society, worry. Well, why do we worry? Lack of faith. Worry is a mild form of atheism. Worry is a way of saying, “God, this problem is too big for You.” Or “If there’s a God at all, You’re not able to handle it.” And so, worry is just faith turned inside out. And faith is worry turned inside out. And, if you’re prone to worry, you need to strengthen your faith.

Are you lonely? You say, “My children don’t call. I don’t have any friends. My friends have all gone to Heaven.” Or “I’m a student here away from family,” away, maybe, from your native country. Faith makes God real to you. You are never alone when you have genuine faith because faith brings Him so near.

Some people are burdened with guilt. You did something so terrible, so horrible, you hope the world never finds out, but you’re not able to forget. You’re not able somehow to set yourself free from that burden that you carry around like a sack full of stones. Well, why do we have this guilt? Lack of faith. Because faith understands that the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ has atoned for that. But you can believe that intellectually, or you can hear about it theologically, but faith lays hold of it.



May I tell you what faith is? Faith is my acceptance of God's acceptance of me. God receives us not because of our own goodness, but when we come to Him just in faith, "Therefore being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 5:1.

Disobedience. Do you have trouble obeying the Word of God? Do you want me to tell you why you don't obey the Word of God? You don't believe it. Let me give you an example. The Bible says in Malachi chapter 3 verse 10, "Bring all the tithe into the storehouse and prove Me now herewith sayeth the Lord of hosts, if I'll not open you the windows of Heaven and pour you out a blessing there not be room enough to receive it." There's not a mother's child that doesn't want the Heavens opened above him and God pouring out such blessings he can't even contain them all. All of us want that, but not all of us tithe. Why? Because we don't believe that promise. You can't tell me if you believed that wouldn't you do it? Doesn't everyone want the Heavens opened, and doesn't everyone want a blessing? They just simply don't believe the Word of God.

Have you ever passed a wall and it has a sign on it that says, "Wet Paint. Don't Touch." What do you do? You touch it. Why? You just don't believe the sign. Somehow you just say, "Oh, I don't believe it's wet!" and you're going to touch it. Now, why do we disobey? Because we do not believe the Word of God.

So, in our study today we're going to leave chapter 10, and we're going to come over to chapter 11, and we're going to think about faith. What it is and how to have it, and the elements of faith.

Now first of all, I want us to look in chapter 11 at what I'm going to call **the description of a life of faith**. Now faith is the only way to live. "The just shall live by faith." And here God describes faith. Notice in Hebrews 11 verses 1 and 2, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report."

Now as we describe faith today, I think it's very important first of all that we understand what faith is not before we learn what faith is. **Faith is not blind superstition**. You know, I'm amazed not only at what people won't believe, but what they will believe. Faith is not blind superstition, nor is faith closing your eyes to reality. A little boy said, "Faith is believing what you know ain't so." No, no. That's not faith.

**Faith is not positive thinking or a feeling of optimism**. I like to be around positive thinkers. I like to be around optimists. I don't like to drive and get behind a person who thinks before they get there the light's going to turn red, and by the time they do, it has. You ever get behind those kind of people? I don't like to be around negative people. I know people who brighten up a room by leaving it. I like to be around optimistic people. But faith and optimism may be in some way tangential but they're not the same. Faith is not positive thinking or optimism. It may lead to that.

**Faith is not a leap in the dark**. To the contrary, it is stepping in the light.

And **faith is not faith in faith**. Bible says, "Have faith in God," it doesn't say, "Have faith in faith." Sometimes people will tell you, "Just believe," as if believing will make it so. Believing will not make it so.



Now, we're talking about what faith is not. What is faith? Well, he tells us here that faith is three things. And I want you to get these words down in your heart. First of all, confidence, conviction and confession. Now, I want you to get these in your heart.

First of all, it is a confidence that rests in hope. Look at it in Hebrews 11 verse 1, "Faith is the substance of things hoped for." "Well, pastor, why did you call it confidence?" Well, because confidence, and that's the way it's translated in some Bibles. New American Standard, for example, gives it as confidence. Why do I use the word confidence? Well, this word, actually it is akin to substance and substance is an acceptable translation. I certainly believe that. But if I could just hone it a little bit more. It means assurance. Actually, it was used in the language of this day for a title deed.

Now if you had a piece of property or an inheritance that you'd not yet seen, but you had the deed, you had the assurance of that which you have not yet seen, but you want to have, that's something that you're hope is in. And so, faith is a confidence. It is not a will-of-the-wisp sort of a thing. It is substance. Sub-stand, something beneath that we stand on. When we live by faith, it's not smoke and mirrors. We're not walking around on eggshells and Jell-O. There is as I've said, substance, confidence.

Now, it is the confidence that rests in hope. The word hope, look at it there. The word hope doesn't mean perhaps. Nor does it even mean wish, nor does it mean desire. Listen very carefully or you'll miss the whole thing. The word hope in the Bible means rock-ribbed assurance based on divine revelation. For example, the second coming of Jesus is called the blessed what? The blessed hope. Is that the blessed maybe? No. It is rock-ribbed assurance based on the promises of the Word of God.

Now, faith, therefore, is the title deed, the confidence that what God has said is true and God will perform it. Now listen very carefully. There is no legitimate faith without hope. And there is no legitimate hope without faith. These cannot be separated. "Faith is the substance of things hoped for." Put down the word confidence.

Secondly, now think not only of confidence, but conviction. **Faith is a conviction that sees the invisible.** Now, we read it here faith is the evidence of things not seen. Now that word evidence may remind you of Colombo in his rumpled overcoat looking around for something. Well, it's akin to that. But actually, this word evidence literally means a conviction. Jesus Christ used this same word in John chapter 8 and verse 46 when He challenged those who were challenging Him and He said, "Which of you convicts Me of sin? Who can convict Me of sin?" Of course, obviously, no one. I wouldn't dare ask my friends that question, much less my enemies. "Which of you convicts Me of sin?" But the word here has the idea of conviction.

Now what it means is, that if you have faith in your heart there is a conviction of something that you've not yet seen. But it is there. It is an absolute confidence that leads to a conviction even though you've not yet seen it. You don't have to see it for it to be real. Friend, there is an invisible world. That invisible world is electronically all around us right now. There are movies and newscasts and music and all of that in the air, but we just don't tune it in right now, but it's all there. There is an invisible world out there.



Listen to Colossians 1:16, “For by Him,” by Jesus, “were all things created that are in Heaven and that are in Earth, visible and invisible.” Don’t make a mistake of thinking that everything that is real is communicated to us by the five senses. No, there is a sixth sense. There is another world. There is an invisible world.

Now what does faith do? Listen carefully. This is important to you. It’s the only way to live. Faith enables the believing soul to treat the future as present and the invisible as seen. You can treat the future as present. And you can treat the invisible as seen by faith. Now the Bible says you are to live by faith.

And then, the third thing is, it is a **communication that comes from Heaven**. Now Hebrews 11 and verse 2 says, “For by it,” that is by faith, “the elders received a good report.” That doesn’t mean they made straight A’s. As a matter of fact, it doesn’t talk about what they did at all. It talks about what happened to them. They received a good report. That is, God spoke to them out of Heaven. It doesn’t deal with their reputation. Now maybe they should have gotten straight A’s, but that’s not what it deals with. The good report means that they heard from Heaven. That God spoke to them. It is not their reputation but God’s revelation that is spoken of here. That God speaks to them. They were conscious of God testifying to them.

Now if you put this confidence and this conviction and this communication together, when they come together then you have something in your heart, inexplicable, but glorious and wonderful and it is called faith. And that is the only way to live. You will live by faith.

Now, when you put these things together, then you’re going to understand first of all, that **faith should not be altered by appearances**. Look again in Hebrews 11 verse 1, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” When you live by faith, you live above “see” level. You live above the level of what you can see. We live in a world that says “Seeing is believing.” The Bible says, “Believing is seeing!”

Put this verse down, John 20 verse 29, “Jesus saith unto him, ‘Thomas, because thou hast seen Me thou hast believed. Blessed are they that have not seen and yet have believed.’” That’s you, friend. Thomas there examined the nail prints in Jesus’ hand, the wound in His side. Jesus said, “Blessed are those who have not seen, yet have believed.”

First Peter 1:8, put that down, speaking of Jesus, “Whom having not seen, ye love.” You see, by faith we see the invisible, so faith should not be altered by appearances. Don’t let any so called appearance make a lie out of the Word of God in your heart and your mind.

Number two, **faith should not be fettered by feelings**. Faith is confidence that goes beyond emotions. I have told you before that your emotions are the shallowest part of your nature. Faith is the deepest work of God and God doesn’t do the deepest work in the shallowest part. Don’t live your life under the tyranny of emotions, by feelings. Now it feels good to feel good. And nothing’s wrong with feeling good. But feelings are fickle. Sometimes you wake up with a dull headache. Sometimes things will happen and you will get all bent out of shape because of feelings. Sometimes that happens to preachers.



Now, you know when I come up here on the platform, I always try to look like I'm having a good time and I feel good. But sometimes I don't. Surprised? Maybe I didn't get any sleep last night. Maybe I got an upset stomach. Maybe I've got a dull headache and I come up here, but it's time to preach and I'm going to preach. Now then, you know, sometimes you think it's going to be a good service and you get your foot in a lard bucket and can't get it out while you're preaching. And you try to say something and you get your tang all tongued up. And the ushers won't ush. And the choir sounds like a couple of calves dying in a hail storm. And you say, "Good night! God is light years from this place." And yet Heaven comes down. Your emotions had nothing to do with that. You see, listen, faith is not altered by appearances. Faith is not limited by your feeling. It's not fettered by feeling.

I'll tell you something else about faith. **Faith is not limited by logic.** Faith is not altered by feelings or fettered by feelings and it is not limited by logic. You know, faith is not contrary to logic. Faith just goes beyond logic.

Now, if this rug is a ditch and I'm over here and I'm moving step by step by step by step to this ditch, and let my walk be logic. Then I come to a place where logic ends. And I need to get over there. I need to take a leap of faith. Now I could completely jump over this rug, but I don't want to show off. And I come across; I come across by a leap. There comes a time when you have to make a leap of faith. Faith is rooted in logic. Faith goes beyond logic. Faith becomes its own best logic. It is not contrary; it is not limited by logic.

In the Gospel of John chapter 6 the first 13 verses, when Jesus was there with those people following Him, and they were tired and hungry, and He called Philip and He said, "Philip, how are we going to feed these people? There are 5,000 there. How are we going to feed them?" Philip got out his pocket calculator. "Oh," he said, "Well, it'd take a laboring man a year's wages to feed these." Technically he was right. But any good red-blooded atheist could have done the same thing. Now when Jesus asked Philip, "How we going to feed these people?" He wasn't asking for information because the Bible says He knew what He would do. He was just wanting Philip to learn something about a miracle.

And, of course, there was a little boy there with a lad's lunch and fed the whole multitude with that couple of fish and loaves. Now, you see, if you're adding up an equation, you're never going to get the right answer if you leave out one of the elements. You see, what Philip did, he left out God. He just figured without God. Now, logically, it was right. But faith is not limited by logic.

Are you trying to figure out something? Some of you, I mentioned tithing a while back. Some of you are trying to figure out how you tithe. And you get all the figures and say, "We can't do it." Did you add God in? Did you add God in? I mean, is God a part of the equation? Faith, friend, is not limited by logic. Bring God into your calculations.

Now we've talked about the description of faith, let's talk secondly, let's shift gears, alright? Put it in another gear and let's talk about the dynamics of a life of faith. Let me tell you how dynamic faith is. You see, we live by faith. First of all, **faith is the dynamic of spiritual wisdom.** There are things that you will never understand apart from faith. Now look if you will in Hebrews 11 verse 3, "Through faith we understand." Don't you like that? "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." Plain English: the visible was made out of the invisible.



Now, God in the Bible is not explained. God is not argued. God is just simply presented. And God must be accepted by faith. Go down to Hebrews 11 and verse 6, "For without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is."

We're talking about wisdom now. The skeptic will say to you, "Prove there's a God." Don't ever try it. Never! Why? Because the finite cannot prove the infinite. And you say, "Well, I can't do it." And he will smirk. But, it's not over yet. You say, "Now, friend, prove there is no God." Of course he can't prove there is no God. He accepts by faith there is no God. All people are believers. There are those who believe in God and those who believe there is no God. They are all believers.

You see, people are trying ever so often, about every three or four months there'll be some new article in the newspaper about the origin of the universe. Do you ever notice that? But it's always different, they never have the answer. Every now and then a scientist will say some good words about God. That doesn't give me any more faith in God. A little more faith in the scientist, maybe, but not in God. What is science? Science is the study of phenomena now existing. God asked old Job this question in Job chapter 38 verse 4, "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the Earth?" There were no scientists there. There's no way that they can explain it. How do we understand it? By faith. You say, "Well, that's takes a lot of belief." Well, friend, I tell you it takes less belief than to believe that nothing times nobody equals everything. That's what they believe. I mean, good night. No wonder the Bible says in Psalm 14 verse 1, "The fool hath said in his heart, 'There is no God.'" God is the supreme fact and the man who denies it is the supreme fool. "The fool hath said in his heart, 'There is no God.'" Now remember, faith is not contrary to reason, it's just simply beyond reason. To go in the laboratory to try to prove God would be like tearing that piano apart trying to find a tune. You can't do that.

Now faith, listen, we're talking about the dynamic of faith. Faith is the dynamic in spiritual wisdom. It is the **dynamic in spiritual worship**. Look again in Hebrews 11 verse 6, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him." Worship is pleasing to God. "For he that cometh to God must believe that He is." Now you say, "God, You prove Yourself to me and I'll serve You." No, no, no, no. God's not going to prove Himself to you. He's not under any obligation to prove Himself to you. Faith is not a response to proof. That's what Thomas demanded. And Jesus said in John 20 verse 29, "Thomas, you've seen and you believe. Blessed are they that have not seen, but they believe."

What is faith? Faith is the heart's response to the character of God. When Jesus Christ came to this Earth, He left all of the splendor, all of the glory, all of that in Heaven. And came to this earth and came in a very ordinary, nondescript way. The Bible says in Isaiah chapter 53 and verse 2, "When we see Him, there's no beauty that we should desire Him." What do you think Jesus looked like? You think Jesus looked like the paintings that the painters paint? Like He just stepped out of a beauty salon? White flowing robes moving around with a dinner plate behind His head. Do you think that's the way He looked? If that's the way He looked, then why did Judas have to point Him out so they could take Him away?

There's no beauty that we should desire Him. Very ordinary, nondescript person. But yet there was in Him all of the glory, all of the serenity, all of the dignity, all of the majesty, all of the purity, all of



the character of God in human flesh. But not because of outward extravagance. He didn't come in a jeweled chariot down to this Earth, born in a palace. He was born, rather, in a stable. And when He did miracles they were not publicity stunts. Often He would say, "Don't tell anybody about this."

Now friend, if we did them, we'd hit the road. Wouldn't we? "Don't tell anybody about this. I don't want that kind of follow-ship." Oh, He did miracles that attested to the fact that He was who He said He was. We have those people today who advertise miracles and don't do them. Jesus did them and didn't advertise them.

Why did He come as He did? Because He wanted what He wanted, which is faith. "Without faith it is impossible to please Him." He could buy us. He could bribe us. He could convince us. He could take the roof off this building and say, "Boo!" You'd say, "I believe." He didn't want that.

Faith is the heart's response to the character of God. When your eye is right, it responds to light. When your ear is right, it responds to sound. When your heart is right, it responds to God and that response is called F-A-I-T-H. Faith. And so, faith, friend, is the heart's response to God. That's the reason the Bible says In Hebrews 3 verse 12, "Beware, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief." Unbelief never comes out of the head. Unbelief comes out of the heart. Faith is the dynamic of spiritual worship. Faith honors God and God honors faith.

Now here's the third thing. We're talking about the dynamic of faith. And we say it's the dynamic in spiritual wisdom. It's the dynamic in spiritual worship. And it is the **dynamic in spiritual wealth**. Look again in Hebrews 11:6, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is," now watch this, "and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." Well how do you seek Him? By faith. Jesus said in Matthew 9 verse 29, "Be it unto you according to your," what? "Be it unto you according to your faith."

Now, not according to your fame. Not according to your feeling. Not according to your future. Not according to your fortune. Not according to your friends. Not according to your fate. But according to your faith be it unto you. Faith is the medium of exchange in the kingdom of Heaven. If you pray without faith you don't get an answer. Mark 11:24, "What things soever you desire when you pray, believe that you receive them and you shall have them." Pray, believe, you'll receive. Pray in doubt, you do without."

Now, God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Faith is the dynamic of spiritual wealth. How spiritually strong are you? How wealthy are you? What kind of reserves do you have? Well, it is all according to your faith.

Now, let's move to the third and final point. Now we've talked about the description of faith. We've talked about the dynamic of faith. Let's talk about the **destination of a life of faith**. You see, life is a journey. We're headed somewhere. And it is not a casual journey. It is a race. Now notice here in Hebrews 12. Let's go on; we're going to skip all of these champions of faith because we're going to come back and take them one by one. All we're doing now is just laying the groundwork, okay?

All right, now, here in chapter 12, it's kind of a conclusion to all of this. Verses 1 and 2, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight,



and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. Looking unto Jesus," now watch this, "the Author and Finisher of our faith: who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." Now the life of faith, the only way to live, is a life that has a destination. It is like a race. It has a goal. Now faith helps us to find that goal, which is the will of God.

Do you know what life is all about? It is to find, to follow, and to finish the will of God. To find, to follow and to finish the will of God. That, my friend, is the destination of faith. That's what faith is all about.

Now, how are we going to do that? Well, very quickly I want to mention some ways. First of all, we're to **be motivated by the saints around us**. Listen to Hebrews 12 verse 1, he says, "Seeing we're compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses." There they are. You can't see them. But just as those people up there in the balcony looking down on us, all around us in the Heavenly gallery, there in the stands, a great cloud of witnesses. These are the champions of faith who've gone before. Now, there they are in the ring of honor. Up there looking down, and we happen to be on the field being watched by the gallery of the great and they are cheering us on as we run the race. Abraham, Moses, Daniel, they're up there in Heaven saying, "Go Adrian, go, go!" Cheering us on. And that's the reason I'm going to bring this series of messages on these champions of faith, so they can encourage you. We're to be motivated by the saints around us.

Number two, we're to **be separated from the surplus upon us**. Now many of us are carrying extra weight. The Bible says in Hebrews 12:1 we're to, "Lay aside every weight." Now these are not sins, these are weights. In the olden days, I used to be on the track team, to run. And when I would run, I would get the lightest shoes I could get. And just a pair of very light shorts to wear. And a shirt that didn't even have sleeves in it, just like a shirt made of a light nylon. And to get down there with your hands spread out and your feet there on that starting block. Every muscle ready to go. Headed toward the goal. Now one thing I did not do, I never ran with an overcoat on. Never. Anything wrong with overcoats? Not a thing in the world. Nice to wear in cold weather. But if you're in a race, what do you do? You lay aside every weight. Everything that is superfluous.

If you want to be a success in life, don't get in the kindergarten stage of saying, "Is this right or is this wrong? Is this lawful, or is this unlawful?" Forget that. You ask yourself, "Is this thing a weight or is it a wing?" And friend, never exchange wings for weights. There are some things that are not bad in and of themselves. But you just have to say, "That's not for me. Not if I want to run this race. There are certain things that I am going to do without. I have to be motivated by the saints around me. I am to be separated from the surplus that is upon me, any extra baggage."

Number three, I am to **be liberated from the snares beneath me**. The Bible also mentions in Hebrews 12 verse 1, "And the sin which doth so easily beset us." All of us know what a besetting sin is. It's something we've been wrestling with for a long time. Actually, this word "beset" means to entangle you. It's something that would trip you up. When you're running a race, ask what it is that keeps tripping you up. Where do you keep falling?



Now notice what it says, it says, "Lay it aside!" Come to grips with it! Be done with it! Do you know what the great enemy of faith is? It is sin. Hebrews 3:12, "Beware, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief." You say, "I have intellectual problems." No you don't. You have dirty, rotten sin. I told you that your heart will respond in faith when your heart is right. Now if you're having trouble with faith, try repentance. In the Bible, it always comes this way: repentance and faith. Never faith and repentance. Repentance and faith. Try repentance. Get your heart right. Get the sin out of your life and you'll be surprised how quickly the flowers of faith will grow when you get the sin out of the soil of your life.

Hebrews 12 verse 1, "Lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us." Well, you say, "You know, this little sin I have, it's so precious." Is it? Is it worth God not answering your prayers? Is it worth a right relationship with God? Is it worth not being a mighty power for God? Is it worth it? No! Lay it aside. Be done with it.

Now next, friend, we're to **be activated for the race before us**. Notice again in Hebrews 12 verse 1, he says, "We're to run with patience the race that is before us." Patience means determination. God does business with those who do business. God has a course for you. God has set a race before you, and you're to get on the track.

Last of all; **be dedicated to the Savior above us**. Look if you will in Hebrews 12:2, "Looking unto Jesus, the Author and the Finisher of our faith." "Looking unto Jesus." Friend, listen to me. It's not great faith in God that you need. Oh, we all want great faith in God. But that's a by-product. Not great faith in God that you need. Listen, it is faith in a great God. Did that sink in? It is faith in a great God. Do you know what faith is? It is the by-product of looking unto Jesus, who is the author and the finisher of our faith. He's the Alpha, the Omega. He's the one that fires the gun. He's the goal to which we run. He is the coach that coaches us as we run. Put your eyes upon Jesus Christ.

If you needed to cross a bridge and you're not sure it could hold you, let's say the Mississippi River Bridge over here, you could tremble and try to screw up your courage. That would be one way to do it. Afraid the bridge might fall. But on the other hand, you could step back and look at it and see semi-trucks, eighteen wheelers going back and forth and automobiles. You could see the great pylons and the steel and the girders.

Now you don't have to make yourself believe. You just go across the bridge because you see what it is and what it can do. Look to Jesus. Fall in love with Jesus. Study Jesus. And you'll find Him in the Word. Romans 10 verse 17, "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."

Now we're going to be talking about champions of faith. Now you're going to live by faith and you will not live without faith. Do you know Jesus? Well, you can exist without faith, but you will never live without faith. In John 10:10, Jesus said, "I've come that you might have life." You put your faith where God has put your sins, on Jesus Christ.

Would you bow your heads in prayer? Heads are bowed and eyes are closed. If you already know Jesus, I want you to pray for those round about you who may not know Him. And I want to lead you in a prayer now. God will give you all the faith you need to trust in Jesus. You don't even have to manufacture



it. You just say, "Lord, help me to believe." And He will. Are you ready to pray? Pray this prayer, "Dear God," if you're not certain that you're saved, pray it right now. "Dear God, I know that You love me and I know that You want to save me. Jesus, You died to save me and You promised to save me if I would trust You. I do trust You. Right now, this moment, this moment, now, right now, this moment I receive You by faith. I don't ask for a sign, I don't look for a feeling. I do it by faith. I trust You to save me. Because You died for me. You shed Your blood for me. You paid my sin debt with Your blood on the cross. You were raised from the dead. I believe it and I receive it. You're now my Lord, my Savior, my God, and my friend. Begin now, Lord Jesus, to make me the person You want me to be. Give me the courage to make it public. In Your name I pray, Amen."



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