**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | The Only Way to Live |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Hebrews 10:38, 11:1-2. 12:1-2 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2382 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. We live in an age where we call many people “stars” or “idols:” movie stars, sports idols.
   2. We have too many stars and too many idols and not enough heroes.
   3. We will learn about Bible heroes in the series “Champions of Faith” as we study Hebrews chapter 11.
   4. Hebrews 11 is set up by Hebrews 10:38 which says, “*Now the just shall live by faith*.”
      1. “*The just shall live by faith*” is a quotation from the book of Habakkuk.
         1. Habakkuk 2:4
      2. Habakkuk lived in a day of violence, degradation, apostasy, danger.
      3. 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.
      4. God told Habakkuk his responsibility was to live in an uncertain age by faith.
      5. We do not by explanations, but by faith.
         1. This is the only way to live.
      6. This Scripture is quoted three times in the Bible to emphasize: we are to live by faith.
   5. Faith is the answer to every problem we have.
      1. Worry
         1. Worry is a lack of faith.
            1. 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.
      2. Loneliness
         1. Faith makes God real to you.
         2. You are never alone when you have genuine faith because faith brings Him near.
      3. 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.
            1. God receives us not because of our own goodness, but when we come to Him just in faith.

Romans 5:1

* + 1. Disobedience
       1. We have trouble obeying the Word of God because we don’t believe it.
          1. Malachi 3:10

We desire God to pour His blessings upon us.

But not all of us tithe.

Because we do not believe that promise.

Because we do not believe the Word of God.

1. The Description of a life of faith
   1. A life of faith is the only way to live.
   2. Hebrews 11:1-2
   3. What faith is not:
      1. 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.
      2. Faith is not positive thinking or a feeling of optimism.
         1. Faith is not the same as positive thinking and optimism.
            1. But it may lead to that.
      3. Faith is not a leap in the dark.
         1. To the contrary, it is stepping in the light.
      4. It is not faith in faith.
         1. Mark 11:22
         2. Just believing will not make it so; have faith in God.
   4. What is faith?
      1. A confidence that rests in hope.
         1. Hebrews 11:1
            1. “Confidence” is the word used for “substance” in some Bible translations.

It means assurance, as in a title deed that assures ownership.

* + - * 1. Sub-stand: something beneath that we stand on.
      1. “Hope” here does not mean perhaps, wish or desire.
      2. “Hope” in the Bible means rock-ribbed assurance based on divine revelation.
         1. The Second Coming of Jesus is called “The Blessed Hope.”

It is not the blessed maybe.

* + - * 1. It is rock-ribbed assurance based on the promises of the Word of God.
      1. Faith is the confidence that what God has said is true and He will perform it.
      2. There is no legitimate faith without hope and no legitimate hope without faith.
    1. A conviction that sees the invisible.
       1. “Evidence” literally means a conviction.
          1. Jesus used this same word for “evidence” as, “Which of you convict Me of sin?”

John 8:46

* + - 1. Faith in your heart is a conviction of something you’ve not yet seen.
         1. Something does not have to be seen for it to be real.
      2. There is an invisible world all around us; the electronic world.
         1. Movies, newscasts, music, etc.

All of these are in the air, but we tune them out.

* + - * 1. Colossians 1:16

Do not think that everything that is real is communicated to us by our five senses; there is a sixth sense.

There is an invisible world.

* + - * 1. Faith enables the believer to treat the future as present and the invisible as seen.
    1. A communication that comes from Heaven.
       1. Hebrews 11:2
          1. “It” in this Scripture refers to faith.
       2. “Good Report” in this passage is God speaking from Heaven.
          1. It is not the elders’ reputation but God’s revelation that is spoken of here.
  1. If we put this confidence, conviction and communication together in our heart, we have something glorious and wonderful; faith.
     1. The only way to live is to live by faith.
  2. Faith should not be altered by appearances.
     1. Hebrews 11:1
     2. When you live by faith, you live above “see” level.
     3. The world says, “Seeing is believing.”
     4. The Bible says, “Believing is seeing.”
        1. John 20:29
        2. 1 Peter 1:8
           1. This verse is speaking of Jesus.
           2. By faith, we see the invisible.
     5. Do not let any so-called appearances make a lie out of the Word of God in your heart and mind.
  3. Faith should not be fettered by feelings.
     1. 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.
           1. Do not live your life under the tyranny of emotions.
     2. There is nothing wrong with feeling good, but feelings are fickle.
  4. Faith is not limited by logic.
     1. Faith is not contrary to logic, it goes beyond logic.
     2. 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.
     3. 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.
     4. 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.

1. the dynamics of a life of faith
   1. Faith is the dynamic of spiritual wisdom.
      1. There are things that we will never understand apart from faith.
      2. Hebrews 11:3
         1. The visible is made out of the invisible.
      3. God is not explained or argued in the Bible but simply presented.
      4. God must be accepted by faith.
         1. Hebrews 11:6
      5. The finite cannot prove the infinite.
      6. The skeptic accepts by faith that there is no God.
         1. All people are believers.
            1. There are those who believe in God and those who believe there is no God.
      7. Science is the study of phenomena now existing.
         1. Job 38:4
      8. Science cannot explain or disprove God; it takes faith.
         1. It takes more faith to believe that “Nothing times nobody equals everything.”
      9. Psalm 14:1
         1. God is the supreme fact and the man who denies it is the supreme fool.
      10. Faith is not contrary to reason, it is just simply beyond reason.
   2. Faith is the dynamic of spiritual worship.
      1. Hebrews 11:6
         1. Worship is pleasing to God.
      2. 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.
            1. John 20:29
      3. Faith is the heart’s response to God’s character.
         1. Jesus left Heaven and came to Earth in a very ordinary, nondescript way.
            1. Isaiah 53:2
         2. Judas had to point Him out in the Garden so they could take Him away.
            1. John 18:3-5
         3. In Jesus was all the glory, serenity, dignity, majesty, purity and all the character of God in human flesh.
            1. But not because of outward extravagance.
            2. 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.
            1. 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.
            1. Hebrews 3:12
         6. Unbelief comes from the heart, not the head.
         7. Faith honors God and God honors faith.
   3. Faith is the dynamic of spiritual wealth.
      1. Hebrews 11:6
         1. How do we seek Him? By faith.
         2. Matthew 9:29
      2. 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.
            1. Mark 11:24
         2. Pray and believe, you will receive. Pray in doubt, you do without.
      3. God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
      4. Your spiritual strength, wealth and reserves are all according to your faith.
2. the destination of the life of faith
   1. Life is a journey; we are headed somewhere.
      1. It is not a casual journey, it is a race.
   2. Hebrews 12:1-2
      1. The only way to live the life of faith, is a life that has a destination.
   3. In the race of life, the goal is to find, follow and finish the will of God.
      1. This is the destination of faith.
   4. We are to be motivated by the saints around us.
      1. 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.
   5. We are to be separated from the surplus upon us.
      1. Many of us carry extra, unnecessary things that weigh us down.
         1. Hebrews 12:1
            1. These are not sins, these are weights.
            2. When we run a race, we lay aside anything that will weigh us down.
      2. Don’t ask, “Is it right or wrong?” Ask, “Is it a weight or a wing?”
         1. Never exchange wings for weights.
      3. Some things are not inherently bad, but must be laid aside.
   6. We are to be liberated from the snares beneath us.
      1. Hebrews 12:1
      2. A sin that “besets” is something that you keep wrestling with, that keeps tripping you up.
         1. “Beset” means to entangle you.
      3. “Lay it aside” means to come to grips with it; to be done with it.
      4. Sin is the great enemy of faith.
         1. Hebrews 3:12
      5. Your heart will respond in faith when your heart is right.
         1. If you are having trouble with faith, try repentance.
      6. 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.
      7. No sin is worth God not answering your prayers.
         1. Set it aside and let it go.
   7. We are to be activated for the race before us.
      1. Hebrews 12:1
         1. “Patience” means determination.
      2. God does business with those who do business.
      3. God has a course for you and you’re to get on the track to run.
   8. We are to be dedicated to the Savior above us.
      1. Hebrews 12:2
      2. It is not great faith in God that you need, but faith in a great God.
      3. Faith is the byproduct of looking unto Jesus, who is the author and finisher of our faith.
3. CONCLUSION
   1. You can exist without faith, but you will never live without faith.
   2. John 10:10
   3. You can put your faith where God has put your sins, on Jesus Christ.
   4. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   5. 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.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16