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Hebrews Fresh Faith

Hebrews 10:39

But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:7

By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

Assurance—confidence, substance

Hoped for—certain expectation of the future anchored in the past.

Conviction—proof by test, demonstration

Things—(pragma) a thing done, accomplished fact.

Faith: A Working Definition

Faith is an active trust displayed by obedience.

1. Fresh Faith is fed by giving God my best.

Hebrews 11:4

By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.

Genesis 4:4-5

and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.

THE FOUR PILLARS OF GIVING

God owns all things (Ps. 24:1-2; 50:10-12)

All things are a gift from Him (Rom. 11:35-36; James 1:17)

All things are to be used for Him (Rom. 11:36; Col. 1:16)

Giving is an act of worship (Prov. 3:9; Phil 4:17-18)

What we give is the expression and exposure of our heart. Giving is not about the amount; it's about the attitude.

2. Fresh Faith walks with God.

Hebrews 11:5

By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God.

Genesis 5:21-24

When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered Methuselah. Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters. Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.

What does it mean “to walk with God:”

- I am God's friend and enjoy His company
- I am going in the same direction as God—shown to me in His Word.
- My love for God and my desire to please Him saturates my thoughts.
- I view my circumstances in light of my relationship with God.
- I seek God's examination of my heart through reading His Word.
- Sin causes unrest and moves me to repentance.
- A lack of fellowship with God results in spiritual loneliness.
- My relationship with God is not compartmentalized—it impacts my entire life and character.
- I desire to repress thoughts God disproves.
- I desire to nurture my friendship with God.

-Marcus Dods, Book of Genesis, 51-53

Colossians 2:6-7

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

3. Fresh Faith stands strong in a culture that opposes God.

Hebrews 11:7

By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

Genesis 6:9

By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

4. Fresh Faith forges through failure.

Hebrews 11:8-12

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

Genesis 16:12

He shall be a wild donkey of a man, his hand against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he shall dwell over against all his kinsmen."

While we must not apply these traits to every descendant of Ismael, the centuries-long hostility between the Jews and the Arabs is too well known to be ignored. The Arab nations are independent people, dwelling in the desert lands and resisting the encroachment of other nations, especially Israel and her allies.

-Warren Wiersbe (Be Obedient)

1Kings 19:1-4a

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life...."

5. Fresh Faith needs tangible reminders.

Genesis 9:12-17

And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

Joshua 4:6-7

When your children ask in time to come, 'What do those stones mean to you?' then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it passed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever."

This week I challenge you to put out a tangible reminder in your home or office of a time when God worked in your life. And when people ask—what is that? You can tell them your story of God as work in your life.

What will you do to get unstuck? God is calling you to fresh faith.