

Face Your Facts With Your Faith

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HEBREWS 11:1-6

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

Introduction

As J. W. Thompson has observed, 'a catalogue of heroes of *pistis*, introduced as patterns of imitation, is unthinkable in any Greek tradition.'³⁸⁹ The reason for this is that to the formally educated person, *pistis*, 'faith,' was regarded as a state of mind characteristic of the uneducated, who believe something on hearsay without being able to give precise reasons for their belief. The willingness of Jews and Christians to suffer for the undemonstrable astonished pagan observers. Yet this is precisely the conduct praised in Heb 11:1-40. This fact constitutes the note of offense in this section of the homily.

Guest Speaker:

Rev. S. Mark Haywood II

S. Mark Haywood II currently serves as the Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for The Institute for Theological Studies (ITS). At the age of 6-years-old God revealed to Mark that he had a divine calling on his life, and at the age of 10-years-old Mark became saved. Nearly two decades later, Mark formally accepted his calling to the ministry.



S. Mark Haywood II graduated from Clear Lake High School in Houston, TX in 1999 on the "Advanced with Honors" program and earned recognition as a National Merit Scholar. He went on to earn two Bachelor of Arts degrees in Economics and Africana Studies from Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, where he joined Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc in 2000 and graduated in 2004. Subsequently, Mark earned a Master of Science degree in Finance from the University of Houston – Clear Lake in Houston, TX and a Master Certificate in Applied Project Management from Villanova University in Philadelphia, PA in 2009.

Mark serves as Youth Pastor for God's Household of Faith in Dickinson, TX mentoring young believers ages 13-18 to become "Grounded in the Word, and Ready for the World." He is a co-founder of H&H Praise Ministries, in which he has taught, promoted, and spread the Gospel through the pantomime art form since 1996. Currently, as VP & CFO of ITS, he utilizes his budgeting, accounting, and financial analysis skills to aide ITS as they fulfill their mission to educate the body of Christ.

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the passage.

Read Hebrews 11:1-6

¹ Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

² For by it the elders obtained a *good* testimony.

³ By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

⁴ By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

⁵ By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "AND WAS NOT FOUND, BECAUSE GOD HAD TAKEN HIM"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

⁶ But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

② EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN?

- 1) Define "faith" from a Biblical perspective. How does this apply to our everyday experiences?

- 2) Why did the author use Abel as an example of faith? How did God reward him for his faithfulness?

3) Why does Enoch become an example of faith to us? Is there a connection between Enoch as an example in verse 5, and the point being illustrated in verse 6? If so what is the connection?

4) Why is it impossible to please God without faith?

③ EMBRACE His Word

Why does this MATTER to me?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage:

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

Sermon Notes
