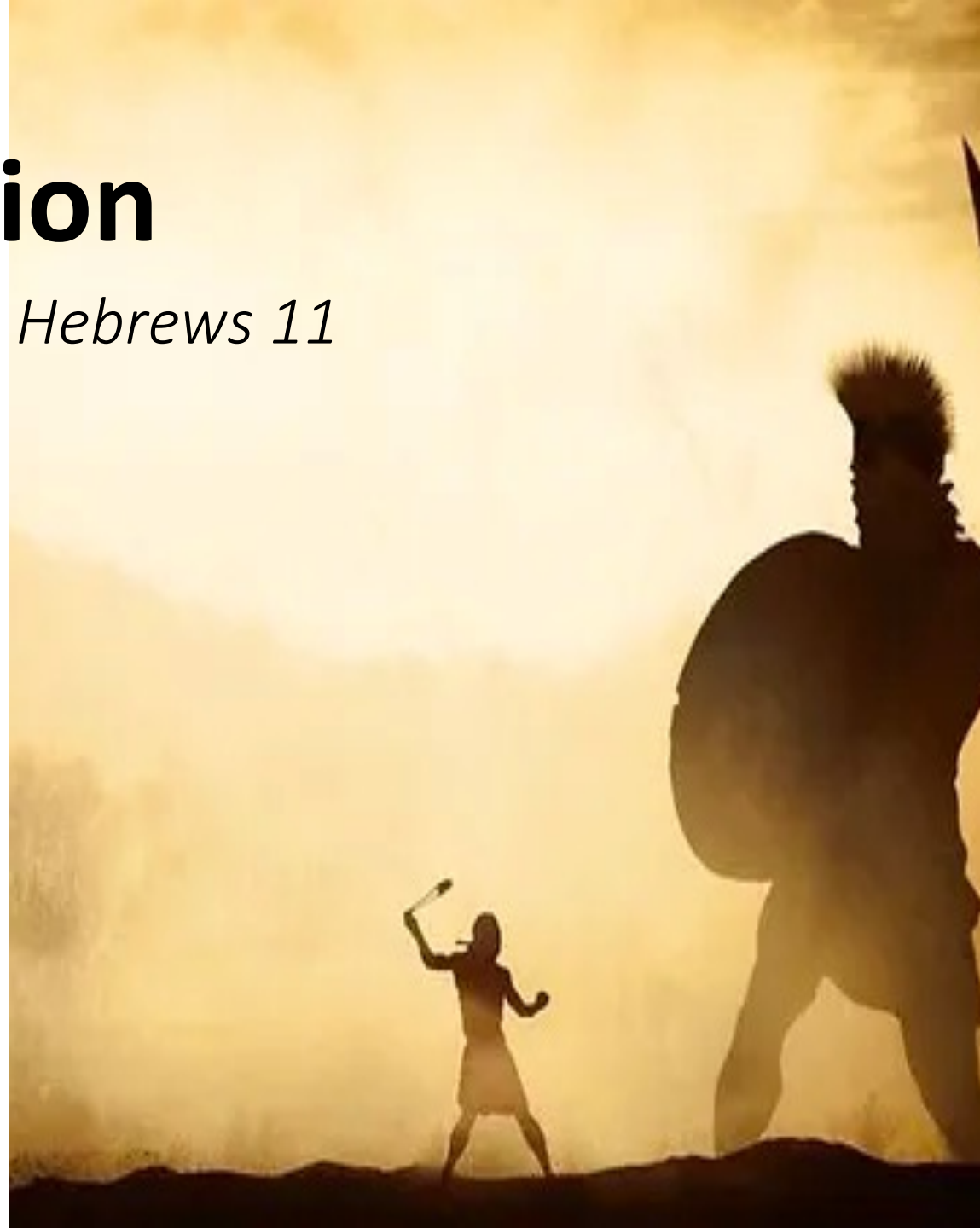


Faith in Action

A Study in James 1-2, Hebrews 11

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11)

“Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect” (James 2)



James 1:22-25

²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. ²⁵ But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.



Faith of Abraham

Gen 22: 1-10

“Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham!”, And he said, “Here I am.” ² Then He said, “Take now your son, your only *son* Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.”

³ So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴ Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. ⁵ And Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you.”

⁶ So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. ⁷ But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” Then he said, “Look, the fire and the wood, but where *is* the lamb for a burnt offering?”

⁸ And Abraham said, “My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.” So the two of them went together. ⁹ Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. ¹⁰ And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.”



Faith of Abraham

James 2:21-24

²¹Was not Abraham our father **justified by works** when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?"

²²Do you see that **faith was working together with his works**, and **by works faith was made perfect**?

²³And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." **And he was called the friend of God.**

²⁴You see then that a man is justified by works, and **not by faith only.**"



Faith of Rahab

James 2:25

²⁵ Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also *justified by works* when she received the messengers and *sent them* out another way?

Joshua 2

⁴ Then the woman *took the two men* and hid them.

¹⁵ Then she *let them down* by a rope through the window, for her house *was* on the city wall; she dwelt on the wall. ¹⁶ And she said to them, “Get to the mountain, lest the pursuers meet you. Hide there three days, until the pursuers have returned. Afterward you may go your way.”

¹⁷ So the men said to her: “We *will be* blameless of this oath of yours which you have made us swear, ¹⁸ unless, *when* we come into the land, you bind this line of scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you bring your father, your mother, your brothers, and all your father’s household to your own home. ¹⁹ So it shall be *that* whoever goes outside the doors of your house into the street, his blood *shall be* on his own head, and we *will be* guiltless. And whoever is with you in the house, his blood *shall be* on our head if a hand is laid on him. ²⁰ And if you tell this business of ours, then we will be free from your oath which you made us swear.”

²¹ Then she said, “According to your words, so *be* it.” And she sent them away, and they departed. And she bound the scarlet cord in the window.



Faith of Rahab

Interesting to note her belief in God:

(v 11) “And as soon as we heard *these things*, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, *for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.*”

And yet the spies made it clear that she must “act” upon this belief:

(v17) So the men said to her: “We *will be* blameless of this oath of yours which you have made us swear, ¹⁸ *unless, when we come into the land, you bind this line of scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you bring your father, your mother, your brothers, and all your father’s household to your own home.* ¹⁹ So it shall be *that* whoever goes outside the doors of your house into the street, his blood *shall be* on his own head, and we *will be* guiltless. And whoever is with you in the house, his blood *shall be* on our head if a hand is laid on him. ²⁰ And if you tell this business of ours, then we will be free from your oath which you made us swear.”



Faith of Noah and Moses

Noah (Gen 6-9)

- God saw the wickedness of man (6:5-6)
- Noah found grace in eyes of Lord; **just** man & **walked** with God (6:8-9)
- God commanded him to build ark with specific details (6:13-21)
- Noah **did** according to **all** God had commanded him (6:22; 7:5)
- God preserved Noah's life (7:7)
- God gave Noah specific instructions for after the flood (8:1-22)
- Noah **went out** and **built an altar; offered** sacrifices (8:18-20)
- God "blessed" Noah (9:1)

Moses (Exodus 3)

- "come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh...." (vs 10)
- Moses response: "who am I? who sent me? they won't listen! I'm not good at it! please send someone else! (3:11-4:17)
- God's anger was kindled against Moses (4:14)
- Moses **returned** to Egypt, **told** Aaron, **gathered** elders (4:18-31)
- Moses **went in** and **told** Pharaoh (5:1)
- God delivered Moses & Israelites from Egypt (Ex 12)



6 Biases/Tendencies in Our Decision Making

Myopia – tendency to focus on very short time horizon when assessing immediate costs and longer-term benefits

Amnesia – tendency to forget too quickly the lessons from past disasters, pains, or failures

Optimism – tendency to underestimate that loss, pain, or negative impact will occur from future hazards, risks, or outcomes

Inertia – tendency to maintain “status-quo” or default option when there is perceived uncertainty about alternate options

Simplification – tendency to selectively do only a subset of relevant efforts or take easier alternative steps

Herding – tendency to base choices on observed actions of others



Great Heroes of Faith

Heb 11:1-2 *“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.”*

- (v4) by faith Abel **offered** to God
- (v5-6) by faith Enoch...**pleased** God
- (v7) by faith Noah **moved** with godly fear...**prepared** an ark
- (v8-10) by faith Abraham **obeyed**...**went out**...**dwelt** in land...**waited** for the city
- (v11) by faith Sarah **bore** a son, **judged** Him (God) faithful who had promised

16” Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them”



Great Heroes of Faith

- (v17) by faith Abraham **offered** up Isaac
- (v20) by faith Isaac **blessed** Jacob/Esau
- (v21) by faith Jacob **blessed** each of the sons of Joseph
- (v23) by faith Moses **was hidden**, they were not afraid of the king's command
- (v24) by faith Moses **refused** to be called son of Pharaoh
 - by faith Moses **chose** to suffer affliction with his people
 - by faith Moses **looked** to the reward
 - by faith Moses **forsook** Egypt and endured
 - by faith Moses **kept** the Passover and sprinkling of blood
- (v29) by faith Israelites **passed** thru the Red Sea
- (v30) by faith the walls of Jericho fell after being **encircled** for seven days
- (v21) by faith Rahab **received** the spies with peace and did not perish

Others in New Testament

- "by faith" Paul **arose and went** into Damascus (Acts 9)
- "by faith" Peter **went** to Cornelius (Acts 10)
- "by faith" Ethiopian Eunuch **went down into** the water, was baptized (Acts 8)
- "by faith" over 3,000 people **repented** and **were baptized** (Acts 2)
- "by faith" Christians **went** everywhere **preaching/teaching** gospel (Acts 8)



We Are Called by God

(1 Pet 2:9) "But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light"

- Love God with all our heart and one another (Mt 22:37; John 15:12)
- Pray without ceasing (1 Thess 5:17)
- Sing and Assemble together (Eph 5:19; Heb 10:25)
- Teach others, study (Col 3:16, 2 Tim 2:15)
- Rebuke false teachers (1 Tim 1:3)
- Be like minded (Phil 1:27)
- Abstain from every form of evil (1 Thess 5:22)
- Submit to one another (Eph 5:21)
- Exhort one another (Heb 3:13)
- Admonish one another (Col 3:16)
- Train children in the Lord (Eph 6:4)
- Mercy, kindness, meekness, patience, forgiveness (Col 3:12)
- Unspotted from the world (James 1:27)
- Repent and be baptized (Acts 2:38)
- Walk in the Light as He is in the Light (1 John 1)
- Keep ourselves unspotted from the world (James 1:27)



What's Your Verb?

