

By Faith...

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen... **Hebrews 11:1**

The Book of Hebrews...

	Jesus Christ superior in His person	Jesus Christ superior as our priest	Jesus Christ superior for life
	Prophets, Angels, Moses, the Sabbath, other priest	Earthly priesthood, old covenant, animal sacrifices, daily offerings	Faith to believe God, Hope to endure trials, love to encourage others
	Chapters 1:1 – 4:13	Chapters 4:14 - 10:18	Chapters 10:19 - 13:25
Emphasis	Doctrine & instructions		Practical living
Key words	Much better than 1:4	Better 7:19	Let us 12:1
Warnings	2:1-4, 3:7-4:13, 5:11-6:20, 10:19-39, 12:25-29		
Theme	The superiority and preeminence of Jesus Christ		
Key verse	Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession 4:14		
Christ in Hebrews	Jesus is the revelation of God and our eternal high priest. 1:1-14, 3:1		

Warnings from the book of Hebrews...

- **Against drifting away**: "Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it..." (2:1-4)
- Against disobedience: "And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient?" (3:7 – 4:13)
- **Against immaturity**: "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food" (5:11 6:20)
- **Against willful sin**: "For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins" (10:19-31)
- **Against indifference**: "See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven." (12:25-29)

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Biblical Faith refers to trust in God and His promises as seen in Scripture. Faith is a gift from God and also a response to knowledge of God's nature and character. Faith in us is seen via committing to God and His truth at heart, mind and will.

- For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. **Hebrews 4:2**
- But my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him. **Hebrews 10:38**

Small group discussions...

- 1. Read the whole of Hebrews chapter 11.
- 2. Take turns to share the character in Hebrews chapter 11 that caught your attention and why?
- 3. Why must faith be of importance to us as Christians?
- 4. How can we increase our faith in God?