

Faith Explained and Illustrated

Hebrews 11



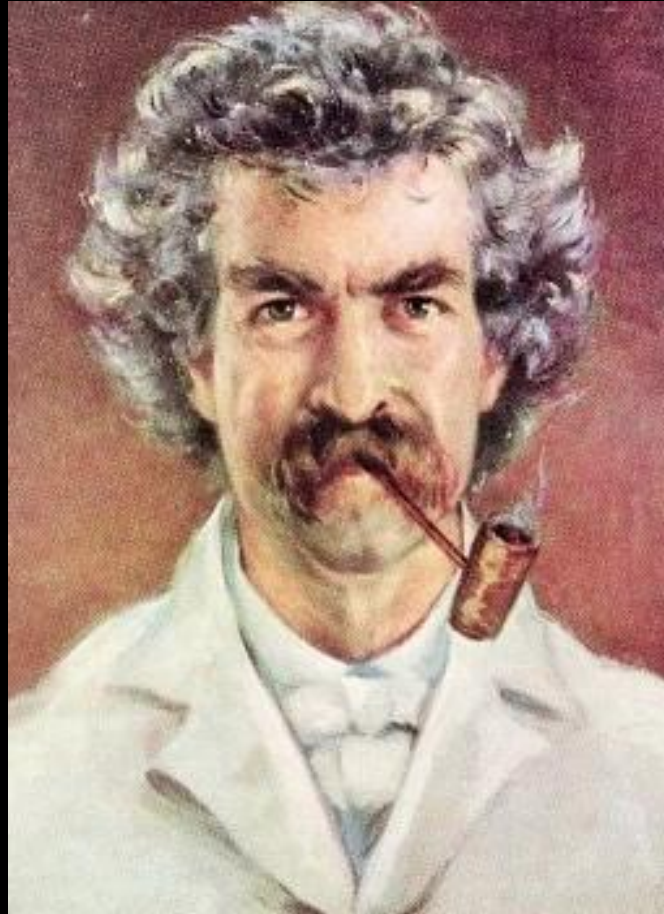


Faith Explained and Illustrated

Introduction

Faith Explained and Illustrated

Introduction



Faith is believing something you know ain't true.

– Mark Twain (1835 – 1910)

Faith Explained and Illustrated

Introduction

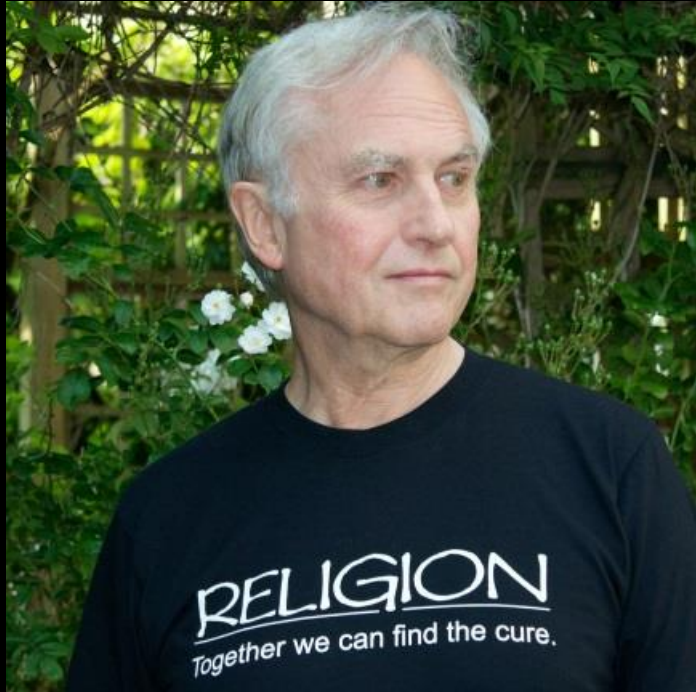
The way to see by faith is to shut the eye of reason.

– Benjamin Franklin
(1706 – 1790)



Faith Explained and Illustrated

Introduction



Faith is the great cop-out, the great excuse to evade the need to think and evaluate evidence. Faith is belief in spite of, even perhaps because of, the lack of evidence.

– Richard Dawkins,
famous atheist

Faith Explained and Illustrated

Introduction

- The author of Hebrews was a Jewish-Christian rabbi whose audience was growing weak in their convictions.
- He is encouraging them to be strong and remain steadfast in their faith.

Faith Explained and Illustrated

Introduction

- In **Hebrews 11** we have **faith explained and illustrated**.
- The rabbi's goal is to stir up the hearts of God's people to greater trust and obedience.

Faith Explained and Illustrated

Introduction

- This chapter can help you if:

Faith Explained and Illustrated

Introduction

- This chapter can help you if:
 1. You've ever wondered if your faith was real.
 2. Your faith in Christ has ever wavered.
 3. You've been puzzled by the relationship between belief and obedience or faith and works.

Faith Explained and Illustrated

Introduction

Biblical faith is our willing response to God,
expressed inwardly by submissive trust,
and outwardly by obedience.



A Description of Biblical Faith

Hebrews 11:1-3

A Description of Biblical Faith

Hebrews 11:1-3

- **11:2** The word **commendation** is related to “**martyr**” or “**witness.**” Also in **11:4 & 5.**
- Our faith, when properly grounded and courageously exercised, bears witness to the world around us of the faithfulness of God.

A Description of Biblical Faith

Hebrews 11:1-3

- A faith deep enough to form convictions leads to strength, determination and action even against overwhelming odds.

A Description of Biblical Faith

Hebrews 11:1-3



Faith is to a Christian what a foundation is to a house; it gives confidence and assurance that he will stand.

– Warren Wiersbe



Faith Prior to the Flood

Hebrews 11:4-7

Faith Prior to the Flood

Hebrews 11:4-7

- **Abel** was killed by his brother as a result of his faith and obedience.
- **Enoch** was snatched away and never physically died.
- **Noah** had to endure 120 years of disbelief, criticism and ridicule as he bore witness of the judgment to come.

Faith Prior to the Flood

Hebrews 11:4-7

- Each of them had to exercise a submissive trust and express their faith in some form of obedience.
- In each case, however, their faith led to different results.

Faith Prior to the Flood

Hebrews 11:4-7

- Faith will require us to act boldly when we are uncertain of outcomes, look to God and trust him until the end.

Faith Prior to the Flood

11:4-7



How God is pleased when we put our faith and trust in Him! It pleases God! It would seem to me that the converse then would also be true. God is displeased when we don't trust Him, when we doubt His promises, and when we live in fear and anxiety.

*– Chuck Smith (1927 – 2013), pastor,
Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa*



Abraham and His Descendants

Hebrews 11:8-22

Abraham and His Descendants

Hebrews 11:8-22

- 11:8 Faith may require uncertainty.
- 11:9-10 Faith may look unimpressive.
- 11:11-12 Faith may pull off the impossible.

Abraham and His Descendants

Hebrews 11:8-22

- 11:13-16 Faith may not let us look back.
- 11:17-19 Faith may require great sacrifice.
- 11:20-22 Faith makes us look past ourselves.

Abraham and His Descendants

Hebrews 11:8-22

- This world is full of people living without God.
- God is calling you to live your life as an example to them – and for the benefit of future generations.

Abraham and His Descendants

Hebrews 11:8-22

Biblical faith is our willing response to God,
expressed inwardly by submissive trust,
and outwardly by obedience.



Moses

Hebrews 11:23-28

Moses

Hebrews 11:23-28

- The first lesson about Moses comes from his parents.
- They feared God more than they feared the king.

Moses

Hebrews 11:23-28

- Amram and Jochebed (Exodus 6:20) are far less famous than their son, but they exercised courageous faith.
- You don't have to be famous to be faithful.

Moses

Hebrews 11:23-28

- **Moses** followed in the footsteps of his not-so-famous parents and became famous as a man of faith.
- **At age 40**, his faith motivated him to reject his place among the elite and cast his lot with the people of God.
- **At age 80**, he led them out of Egypt.

Moses

Hebrews 11:23-28



Moses chose the imperishable, saw the invisible, and did the impossible.

*– Vance Havner (1901-1986),
Baptist pastor and Bible teacher*



And Many More
Hebrews 11:29-40

And Many More
Hebrews 11:29-40



Faith can operate in the life of any person who will dare to listen to God's Word and surrender to God's will.

– Warren Wiersbe

And Many More Hebrews 11:29-40

- **11:29-34** Faith can win great victories in the here and now.
- **11:35-38** Faith can also suffer while looking toward a goal beyond the affliction.

And Many More

Hebrews 11:29-40

- **11:39-40** These verses ask us, “Who’s next?”
- Will we join this long roll call of faith?
- Will we receive our reward together with these saints of all the ages?

And Many More

Hebrews 11:29-40

Faith is confidence that results in action carried out in a variety of situations by ordinary people in response to the unseen God and his promises, with various earthly outcomes but always the ultimate outcome of God's commendation and reward.

*– George H. Guthrie,
professor of Bible, Union University,
Jackson, TN*





Faith Explained and Illustrated

Conclusions

Faith Explained and Illustrated

Conclusions

- Faith is not blind optimism.
- It's not something we work up through emotional hype.
- Faith is not believing in something without any evidence to support it.

Faith Explained and Illustrated

Conclusions

- Faith does, however, require us to:
 1. Gather sufficient evidence from all the right sources.
 2. Interpret that evidence correctly.
 3. Remain steadfast in the face of uncertainty.

Faith Explained and Illustrated

Conclusions



If I am blind I cannot distinguish color, or if I lack the faculty of hearing I cannot enjoy music. Yet music and color are in fact real things, and their reality is unaffected by whether or not I am able to appreciate them. Now we are considering here the things which, though they are not seen, are eternal and therefore real ...

*– Watchman Nee (1903 – 1972),
Chinese Christian Leader, died in prison*

Faith Explained and Illustrated

Conclusions



Of course we cannot substantiate Divine things with any of our natural senses; but there is one faculty which can substantiate the “things hoped for”, the things of Christ, and that is faith.

*– Watchman Nee (1903 – 1972),
Chinese Christian Leader, died in prison*

Faith Explained and Illustrated

Conclusions

- Faith needs to be exercised.
- Faith requires a response.
- What will our response be?

Faith Explained and Illustrated

Conclusions

Biblical faith is our willing response to God,
expressed inwardly by submissive trust,
and outwardly by obedience.

Faith Explained and Illustrated

Conclusions

*By and by when I look on His face,
Beautiful face, thorn-shadowed face;
By and by when I look on His face,
I'll wish I had given Him more ...*

– from a hymn by Grace Reese Adkins (1884 – 1973)

Faith Explained and Illustrated

Conclusions

*By and by when He holds out His hands,
Welcoming hands, nail-riven hands;
By and by when He holds out His hands,
I'll wish I had given Him more.*

– from a hymn by Grace Reese Adkins (1884 – 1973)