

Limitless (Part 1) Limitless Faith (Hebrews 11:6)

Introduction: *With all the sensationalism normally connected with teachings on faith, it is easy to think faith is limited to an elite group of God's choicest saints. As we come to this great chapter of Hebrews, we are exposed to the great "Hall of Faith!" Impressive saints whose names are household names in Christian circles – famous for their feats of great faith if you will! We sit back and wonder, could I ever have and express faith like that? And the wonderful answer is, YES WE CAN! Every believer here today can choose to live a life of "limitless Faith" and today I want to show us how.*

I. The breakdown of faith:

This chapter doesn't begin with a list of names, it actually begins with a breakdown of what faith is and isn't.

A. What faith isn't – Faith is not a name it and claim it proposition!

1. (Heb 11:1 tells us) *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for; the evidence of things not seen."*
2. Faith has literally nothing to do with seeing things with your mind's eye and then claiming it for yourself (or anyone else).
 - a. Some have looked at a chapter of testimonies like this and commented; "Yes but these men and women were heroes!" And I would be quick to remind us of a few things:
 - b. First, they were just plain people like you and I, exercising faith in the same God we have.
 - c. Second, when life got hard or circumstances seemed overwhelming, they did what we are to do; trust God's word and hold on to Him.
 - d. Third, they had to exercise faith just like we do – and when we do what they did, one day we may seem pretty heroic to others as well.

B. What faith is – Faith is believing, having confidence in God – having firm conviction that He is who He says He is and that He at work, and He will do what He said He will do!

These are the testimonies of men and woman who did three things:

- a. They humbly displayed absolute dependence upon believing God.
- b. They believed that He was, and who He was, which fostered assurance instead of doubt. Then...
- c. They counted on God to keep His word, believing God was trustworthy and consistent to His character.

II. The beginning of faith: (v. 6a) Without faith, we cannot please God!

A. The beginning of faith is believing God – This where our walk of faith begins – believing God is.

- a. God has given us all faith - *"...God has dealt to each one a measure of faith."* (Rom 12:3).
- b. The question is what is our faith in? there is only one kind of faith that is pleasing to God and man cannot count on anything else (Heb. 11:6)
- c. This faith comes by hearing and believing the word of God (Rom. 10:17)

What does good quality faith look like? Swindoll in his study on Hebrews comments:

"First, it requires we come to God with an attitude of total dependence on and availability to God.

Second, I must believe God is there (whether I sense or feel it or not!) I am trusting in His love and concern for me which He has already amply proven (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:8 Rom. 8:31-39).

Third, quality faith requires that I trust God to keep His word.

Paul reminds us in (Rom 10:17) *"...faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."* We see this kind of faith in the people listed in this chapter.

1. Notice these examples:

- a. **A shepherd named Abel** – Unlike his brother Cain, Abel pleased God and believed God coming to God on His terms; therefore, God rewarded His faithful one.
- b. **A preacher name Enoch** – (Jude 14-15) (Gen. 5:21-24 tells us) Enoch pleased God because He came to God, believed and walked with God, and he became a prime demonstration of faith for us.
- c. **A builder by the name of Noah** – He acted by faith, *"...by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith."* (v.7) Plus...
- d. **A whole host of others of whom it is said** (from generation to generation) – lived "By faith."

III. The practice of believing faith:

Each of these examples "Lived out their faith" daily believing God... This is how we are to practice our believing faith by...

A. Living – These living examples set before us were actual people who made faith a thing to live by, a principle to practice, a daily way of life! *Prov 3:5-6*

B. Giving – If you don't practice faith in your finances, your finances can pull you away from your faith! (1 Tim. 6:10)

We must simply come to place where we say, "Lord I believe you and I trust you or I don't." (Mal. 3:10; Acts 20:35; Luke 6:38; 2 Cor 9:6)

C. Fellowshiping – Heb 10:25

1. Paul tells us about our old walk – (Eph. 4:17-19)
2. As believers, we don't live or walk that way anymore – (Eph. 4:20) Paul says, "We have learned Christ..."
3. Now we walk with God – With surrendered spirits, surrendered wills, and lives and we do this together with other believers.

D. Witnessing – All of these witnesses in this chapter came to God on His terms, believed God, trusted God, sought God and they proclaimed God! Their very faith was a witness that affected everyone around them. A faith that pleases God is not one we just keep in our hearts; it is one that we profess with our lips.

Let's make this new year, a year committed to have limitless faith – the kind of faith that is pleasing to God!