

HALL OF FAITH

Dear CG Leaders,

We have refreshed the Connect Resource Pack to make it simpler for you. Based on great feedback from last year's survey, we've reorganized the layout. First, you'll find upcoming events for your connect group's attention, followed by the CG Discussion questions at the beginning of the brief. After the questions, you'll find the Campaign Brief for further study and information. We hope this helps!

Dates: Sunday 2nd March to Sunday 23rd March 2025

Announcements:

<p>Water Baptisms</p> <p>March 16th</p>	<p><i>We're celebrating Water Baptisms on Sunday, March 16, 2025, because so many people have responded to Jesus! If someone in your Connect Group is considering taking this step, encourage them to sign up and be part of it. They can register using the link below or head to the Next Step area on Sundays.</i></p> <p>https://c3syd.ucareapp.com/forms/24/embed</p> <p><i>To find out more about Water Baptism, please click on the link below:</i></p> <p>https://c3syd.church/nextstep/water-baptism/</p>
<p>Night of Faith & Miracles</p> <p>March 23</p>	<p><i>On Sunday, March 23, we are closing our Hall of Faith campaign with David Hall for a Night of Faith and Miracles. This will be at 6pm at our Northern Beaches Location.</i></p> <p><i>David Hall, pastor of Revival City Church in Adelaide, carries a ministry of healing and Holy Spirit empowerment. You may remember him from our last conference! You can watch his messages on our YouTube channel in the conference playlist if you missed it.</i></p>

Purpose of this campaign: To inspire resilient faith in Christ by exploring the message of Hebrews, emphasizing a faith that is anchored in God's Word, informed, active, & dependent which leads to an assurance, endurance, and power in every season of life.

Key text/s for this campaign: Hebrews

○ *Week 1: Faith in Christ (Hebrews 1)*

Connect Questions

2nd March 2025

Below are a series of questions to help you to prompt discussion of Ps Alex's message from Sunday, Faith in Christ. Please choose some questions you want to bring to your group.

1. Hebrews presents us with Jesus as God's ultimate revelation, greater than Moses, angels and earthly priests; fully human and fully divine. He is the exact image of God and sustainer of all things, having completed His redemptive work and is now seated at the right hand of God, exalted with all power and authority.

Discuss how knowing this would've helped the early Jewish believer hold fast their faith rather than return back to their old systems of religion.

2. Who is the foundation of our faith? What does this mean to you and the people in your connect group?
3. Consider the following question: *Do we have faith in faith, or do we have faith in the person of Jesus Christ?* Discuss this and the difference between these positions.
4. Jesus is the ultimate and authoritative voice of God, embodying God's truth and character. (Hebrews 1:1-2)

Why is knowing this so important to our faith?

5. Hebrews 1:3 tells us that Jesus upholds, "all things by the word of His power..." This helps us understand that His divine power is active, not passive.

Discuss how this impacts our lives in how we walk as Christians.

6. If faith is active, discuss an example in scripture where we can see this (E.g. Matthew 14:25-32 Peter getting out of the boat and walking on water when Jesus says to, "Come.")

Discuss any examples you or your cg members have acted in faith at the word of Jesus (the Word).

7. Discuss who you are believing for to know Jesus. Pray as a connect group for opportunities to 'be a witness' to them.

Connect Group Resources:

<https://bibleresources.org/names-of-jesus/>

- **Week 2:** *We live by faith (Hebrews 11)*
- **Week 3:** *Faith that runs (Hebrews 12:1-3)*

Connect Questions

16th March 2025

Below are a series of questions to help you to prompt discussion of the message from Sunday, Faith that Runs. Please choose some questions you want to bring to your group.

1. Faith in Jesus, having a trust in God's promises and fixing our eyes on Him helps us endure and keep going through difficulties, discouragement and life's 'curve balls'. If comfortable, share times where you had to have faith in Jesus to keep going on your walk with Him.
2. How do we keep faith in Christ and our eyes on Him during difficulties? (What helps us do this?)
3. Discuss the cloud of witnesses in Hebrews 12:1 and referenced in Hebrews 11. How do they encourage us to endure hardship while trusting in outcomes not immediately visible?
4. Why is following Christ like 'running with endurance a race set before us'?
5. Hebrews 12:1 tells us to, "...lay aside every weight, and sin which so easily ensnares us..." Discuss what kind of things can become 'weights' and sin in our lives that we could 'throw off'? What is a next step you could take to help you do this?
6. Who in the bible has inspired you with their endurance and perseverance? Discuss why this is so.

7. By focusing on Jesus' example of obedience, endurance of the cross and ultimate victory over sin and death, discuss the assurance this brings that our faith is not in vain.
8. We need to be fully persuaded that the promises in the Word of God are true and for us. Faith is informed by the Word of God. Discuss times where the Word of God has brought faith to you to believe for and receive a promise of God. How has that quickened Word helped you endure through difficult times.
9. Discuss who you are believing for to know Jesus. Pray as a connect group for opportunities to 'be a witness' to them.

○ **Week 4:** *Faith in an Unshakeable Kingdom (Hebrews 2:18-28)*

Key Historical Context, Commentary, and Insights

Authorship and Date

The authorship of the book of Hebrews is a topic that continues to be debated. Early traditions attributed the letter to Paul, although its style and themes differ significantly from Paul's other writings. Scholars believe that other possible options include Barnabas, Apollos, or Priscilla. While the identity of the author remains uncertain, it is clear they have a deep understanding of Jewish traditions and Old Testament scriptures. The way most scholars get around this anomaly is by saying, "the author of Hebrews" rather than "Paul says in Hebrews."

Hebrews is generally thought to have been written before the destruction of the Temple in AD 70, as it references the sacrificial system in the present tense, suggesting the Temple was still in operation. Therefore, this letter is probably located in a context where Jewish Christians were grappling with faith in Christ while navigating their cultural and religious heritage. It is addressed to the "Hebrews," so is going to focus on key areas of Judaism and how Christianity is different.

Theological Themes

1. **Christ's Supremacy:** Throughout this letter (esp. the first 10 chapters) Jesus is portrayed as greater than angels, Moses, and the Levitical priesthood, emphasizing his unique role as the perfect High Priest who fulfills and surpasses the old covenant.
2. **The New Covenant:** Hebrews contrasts the limitations of the Mosaic covenant with the superior, eternal covenant established through Jesus' sacrificial death.
3. **Faith and Perseverance:** The book calls believers to remain steadfast in trials, drawing inspiration from the faithful examples in chapter 11, also known as the "Hall of Faith."
4. **Jesus as High Priest:** The author presents Jesus as a priest "in the order of Melchizedek"—sinless, eternal, and uniquely able to mediate between God and humanity.

Structure:

1. **Introduction** (1:1-4): The letter opens by affirming that God has now spoken fully and finally through his Son, the ultimate revelation of his character and will.
2. **Jesus' Superiority to Angels** (1:5-2:18): This section contrasts Jesus with angels, who delivered the Torah, emphasizing his divinity and his incarnation to accomplish salvation.
3. **Jesus Greater than Moses** (3:1-4:13): Jesus is presented as greater than Moses. While Moses led Israel to the Promised Land, Jesus leads believers into God's eternal rest.
4. **Jesus as the Great High Priest** (4:14-10:18): The heart of the letter focuses on Jesus' priesthood, his once-for-all sacrifice, and the establishment of a new covenant.

5. **Faith and Endurance** (10:19-12:29): Believers are encouraged to persevere, with chapter 11 showcasing examples of enduring faith, and chapter 12 calling for focus on Jesus as the ultimate example.
6. **Practical Instructions** (13:1-25): The letter concludes with guidance for living out faith through hospitality, generosity, respect for leadership, and worship.

Historical Context:

The original audience of Hebrews consisted of Jewish Christians who were facing persecution and pressures from society to abandon their faith in Christ and return to Judaism. The letter addresses their struggles by emphasizing the superiority of Christ and the new covenant, reassuring them of the permanence and sufficiency of their faith in him. By drawing heavily on Old Testament imagery, the author connects their faith in Jesus with the fulfillment of God's promises, urging them to remain steadfast and avoid reverting to the old ways.

Unique Features of Hebrews:

Integration of the Old Testament: Hebrews masterfully connects Old Testament passages, especially from Psalms and Leviticus, to highlight Christ's fulfillment of God's redemptive plan. **Emphasis on Jesus' Priesthood:** Unlike other New Testament writings, Hebrews focuses extensively on Jesus' role as High Priest, highlighting his intercession and the sufficiency of his sacrifice. **Vivid Theological Imagery:** The text contrasts Mount Sinai and Mount Zion, the old and new covenants, and temporary versus eternal sacrifices, using striking imagery to convey profound truths.

Key Takeaway:

Hebrews is a call to anchor our faith in Christ, who is the ultimate revelation of God. His sacrifice and eternal priesthood provide the foundation for enduring faith, enabling believers to persevere through trials and remain focused on God's unshakable kingdom. This letter challenges readers to deepen their trust in Jesus and live out their faith with confidence and commitment.

A Note on "Faith":

This preaching brief explores the concept of "faith" with the following biblical & theological definitions:

*"Faith is the **confidence** in what we hope for and **assurance** about what we do not see."* (from Hebrews 11:1)

Faith, as shown by Abraham, is:

- **Informed** - Abram's faith is rooted in God's clear promises, revealed through tangible signs in Genesis 15 and 17, ensuring his trust is based on divine revelation.
- **Active** - Abram demonstrates his faith through action, obeying God's command to migrate, showing that genuine faith involves visible, public obedience.
- **Dependent** - by leaving the security of Ur, Abram relies entirely on God's promises, trusting in divine guidance over familiar comforts and earthly securities.

Week 1: Hall Of Faith: Faith in Christ

Date: Sunday 2nd March 2025

Section: Hebrews 1:1-14, 11, 12:1-3 and 12:18-28

Key point of this week: Jesus, as God's ultimate revelation, greater than angels, Moses, and earthly priests, is the cornerstone and direction of our faith, calling us to trust his authority and sufficiency as the anchor of our lives.

Key Scripture:

Hebrews 1:1-4

¹“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.”

This week we are exploring the principle: *Our faith is based in Christ*

This opening week sets the foundation of faith by presenting Jesus as God's ultimate revelation—greater than angels, Moses, and any earthly priest. Our faith is grounded in the certainty of who Jesus is the exact image of God and the sustainer of all things. By believing in Christ's supremacy, we trust that he is all-sufficient and holds authority over every area of our lives. This message calls us to build our faith on Christ as the cornerstone, trusting that God's revelation through Jesus is the anchor of our faith.

Historical Context (for Hebrews chapters 1-4):

The book of Hebrews addresses Jewish Christians who were at the time experiencing severe external pressures, including persecution and social ostracism. It can be assumed that some were tempted to revert to their former Jewish traditions to avoid the difficulties of following Christ. The author of Hebrews addresses such temptation by emphasizing the supremacy of Jesus over all previous mediators of God's will, including the prophets, angels, and priests. Chapters 1-4 specifically establish Jesus as the ultimate revelation of God, the Creator of the universe, and the one who sustains all things by his power. The presentation of Jesus as both fully divine and fully human reassures the readers of his sufficiency to meet all their spiritual needs. These chapters encourage the believers to hold fast to their faith, reminding them that

turning back to old systems would be to deny the unparalleled authority and redemptive work of Christ.

Hebrews 1, in particular, compares the limited revelations given through prophets with the complete and final revelation in Jesus. We see Jesus portrayed as seated at the right hand of God which both reflects the completion of his redemptive work and his now exalted position. For a persecuted audience, this reminder of Christ's victory and authority serves as an anchor for faith, urging believers to remain steadfast despite external challenges.

Supporting points to key point:

- **Faith principle: faith is based in Christ**

This week is all about establishing the understanding that we don't have faith in faith, we have faith in Christ. Christ is the foundation of our faith. If you need more faith, then get a bigger vision of Christ.

Hebrews 1:1-4

¹“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.”

- **Jesus is the foundation of our faith**

1.1-2 “Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

The opening verses of Hebrews emphasize the progression and culmination of God's communication with humanity. In the past, God spoke through the prophets in fragments and various ways, offering glimpses of his will. However, in Jesus, this partial revelation is brought to fullness. Hebrews 1:1-2 declares Jesus as “*the heir of all things*” and the one “*through whom the world was created*”, which is a way on declaring Jesus as the ultimate & authoritative voice of God. Unlike the prophets, who could only relay parts of God's message, Jesus embodies the fullness of God's truth and character. This unique role as God's final revelation establishes Jesus as **the foundation of our faith**, providing a

clear and reliable source for understanding God's nature and will. For believers, anchoring life in the teachings of Christ ensures a faith grounded in the eternal and unchanging truth of God.

- **Jesus is the foundation of our trust**

1:3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Hebrews 1:3 offers a profound declaration of Jesus' divine nature, describing him as the "*radiance of the glory of God*" and the "*exact imprint of his nature.*" Basically, he is enough for any situation you face. These metaphors reveal that Jesus is not merely a reflection of God but is God himself, sharing in his divine nature. In the phrase "*he upholds the universe by the word of his power*" we understand that this divine authority is not a passive role but active, ensuring the ongoing existence and order of creation. Jesus' superiority over the angels, prophets, & priests (as we see in chapters 2-10) further emphasise the predominant role Jesus plays in God's redemptive plan. Trusting in Jesus' authority should provide believers with assurance and peace, with the knowledge that he governs the cosmos with wisdom and care. In times where we face uncertainty or hardship, we can rely on the fact of Jesus' sovereignty and have faith that he has the power to overcome, sustain and guide us into his will for our lives.

- **Be convinced that Christ is supreme**

1:4 having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs."

The culmination of this passage (in verse 4) focuses on Jesus' redemptive mission and his exalted position at the right hand of God. After making purification for sins (through what Jesus had done in his death, burial resurrection, and ascension) Jesus completed the work that no earthly priest could achieve. His sacrifice was perfect, final, and all-sufficient, to address the problem of sin for once and all. The imagery of Jesus seated at God's right hand signifies the completion of this work and his exaltation as King and High Priest. This final position reflects both Jesus' divine authority and his ongoing role as an intercessor for all believers. For the original audience, this truth served as a powerful reassurance that Jesus' work was complete and sufficient, offering eternal redemption, and an *encouragement not to turn back to their old way*, don't go back to what is comfortable, stay out of the boat! For contemporary believers, it calls for a trust in the sufficiency of Jesus' sacrifice and a produce

heart of worship in response to what He has done. Recognizing Jesus' completed work frees us from striving for righteousness and allows us to rest in his grace.

By acknowledging Jesus as the ultimate revelation of God, the sustainer of creation, and the Redeemer of humanity, believers are equipped to face challenges with confidence, knowing that their faith is anchored in an unshakable foundation.

Faith example: Faith is active (get out of the boat!) – Peter

Matthew 14:25-32

²⁵ Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake.²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. ²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."²⁸ "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."²⁹ "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. ³³ Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Week 2: Hall Of Faith: We Live by Faith

Date: Sunday 9th March 2025

Key point of this week: To inspire resilient faith in Christ by exploring the message of Hebrews 11 and the key examples of the “great cloud of witnesses.”

Key Scripture: Hebrews 11:1-39

Historical Context (for Hebrews chapters 1-4):

The latter chapters of Hebrews continue to address a community facing persecution and the temptation to abandon their faith. The author encourages the readers by pointing to the enduring faith of past believers, detailed in Hebrews 11, often called the "Hall of Faith." These figures, from Abel to Abraham to Moses, demonstrate the power of faith in God's promises, even in situations when the outcome of their faith remains to be unseen.

The message of Hebrews 11 brings us into the "Hall of Faith," where the lives of faithful men and women demonstrate the endurance of belief even in the unseen. The launching point of Hebrews 11 is Hebrews 10 (funny that!). Where the author of Hebrews outlines the tenacity of our faith:

Hebrews 10:22-23

²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

Hebrews 10:39

³⁹ But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.

Supporting points to key point:

- **Faith Principle: We Live by Faith**

In Hebrews 11 we come to the pinnacle moment where the author of Hebrews lists the heroes of faith, it is the Hall of Faith or the Faith Hall of Fame moment.

- **Faith is not based on sight but confidence in God and his promises**

The opening of Hebrews 11 sets the scene for the rest of the chapter

Hebrews 11:1-3

¹Now... faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. ²This is what the ancients were commended for. ³By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

A great definition of faith is, "Faith is the perception and the pursuit of the unseen realm." From these verses, faith reveals to us that there is another reality, an eternal, heavenly realm that we can't see with our physical eyes. That unseen realm is more powerful than what we see, however, because what was unseen created what we see. The only way to interact with that unseen realm is through faith. Back to v1, faith isn't wishful thinking. By seeing that Heavenly realm, we now hope in what is real. Heaven is more real than what we see because Heaven is eternal. What we see is temporary. <https://www.christianity.com/wiki/bible/what-is-the-hall-of-faith-found-in-hebrews-11.html>

- **Be encouraged by the example of those who have gone before us**

1. **Abel** - "...brought a better offering than Cain did" (v. 4).

2. **Enoch** - "...commended as one who pleased God" (v. 5).

3. **Noah** - "...when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family" (v. 7).

4. **Abraham** - "...obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going" (v. 8). "...offered Isaac as a sacrifice" (v. 17).

5. **Isaac** - "...blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future" (v. 20).

6. **Jacob** - "...when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph's sons, and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff" (v. 21).

7. **Joseph** - "...spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions concerning the burial of his bones" (v. 22).

8. **Moses' parents** - "...hid for three months after he was born..." (v. 23).

9. **Moses** - "...chose to be mistreated along with the people of God..." (v. 25).

"...kept the Passover and the application of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel" (v.26).

10. **The Israelites** - "...passed through the Red Sea as on dry land..." (v.29) "...the walls of Jericho fell..." (v.30).

11. **Rehab** (saved because she helped the Israelite spies).

12. Others: **Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, the prophets.**

- **Faith is an eternal journey.**

When we read the whole chapter of Hebrews 11, it is not just about people getting what they prayed for, it actually highlights that these people were people “of faith” because they kept going no matter what.

Hebrews 12:13-16

¹³All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. ¹⁴People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

What is your faith story?

When you look at the list each one has a different journey, different obedience step, different. Ask yourself what your faith story is. If you were written into Hebrews 11, By faith... (put your name in here) ... what is your story.

Faith example: choose one of the list in Hebrews 11 and expand on the faith journey.

Week 3: Hall Of Faith: Faith That Runs

Date: Sunday 16th March 2025

Key point of this week: Enduring faith is strengthened by the examples of faithful witnesses, the assurance of Christ's victory, and the call to fix our eyes on Jesus as we persevere in the race set before us.

Key Scripture:

Hebrews 12:1-3

1st Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2nd looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. 3rd Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted."

What we are exploring this week: *What faith does for us – helps us to endure and keep going!*

Hebrews 12:1-3 urges us to find strength in the faith of those who came before us and to continue running our own race with perseverance. Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, we are inspired to face life's obstacles with unwavering faith, remembering that God honors those who trust him fully. This message calls us to strengthen our endurance by keeping sight of God's promises.

Historical Context (for Hebrews chapters 12):

Faith Principle: Faith That Runs

In chapter 12, the metaphor of running a race is introduced, calling believers to persevere despite the challenges. The focus shifts to Jesus as the ultimate example of enduring faith, who faced hostility and shame yet triumphed for the sake of God's redemptive plan. The author's message is clear: faith is not passive but an active, enduring trust in God's promises, sustained by the examples of those who have gone before and by keeping our focus on Jesus. This historical backdrop resonates with the original audience, who needed encouragement to remain steadfast despite the challenges & persecution they faced.

The Inspiration of the Cloud of Witnesses

Hebrews 12:1 references the “cloud of witnesses” which we went through last week — those who lived by faith and are highlighted in Hebrews 11. These faithful individuals endured trials, suffering, and even death because of their trust in God’s promises. Their lives serve as examples and encouragement for believers to persevere in their own faith journey. These witnesses remind us that faith often involves enduring hardship while trusting in outcomes that may not be immediately visible. Their stories encourage us to lay aside distractions and burdens, focusing instead on running the race set before us with perseverance. Modern believers are invited to draw strength from these examples, remembering that the same God who sustained them is at work in their lives as well.

Jesus: The Ultimate Example of Endurance

Hebrews 12:2 directs our attention to Jesus, described as the “*founder and perfecter of our faith*.” Jesus’ endurance of the cross, despite its shame and suffering, exemplifies the ultimate act of faith and obedience to God’s redemptive plan. Jesus faced hostility and suffering with joy, knowing the ultimate victory that awaited him. By focusing on Jesus’ example, believers are encouraged to persevere, trusting that their faith will also lead to a victorious outcome. Jesus’ triumph over sin and death provides the assurance that our faith, even in trials, is not in vain. His exaltation at God’s right hand underscores his authority and the certainty of his promises.

Laying Aside Anything that Hinders

The imagery of running a race emphasizes the active nature of faith. Hebrews 12:1 calls believers to “*lay aside every weight*”—anything that hinders their spiritual progress—and the sin that entangles. This is not a one-time act but a continuous process of self-examination and surrender. The call to “run with endurance” acknowledges that faith is a marathon, not a sprint, requiring sustained effort and focus. By fixing our eyes on Jesus, we find the strength to endure life’s challenges and remain faithful to God’s calling. This metaphor challenges modern believers to identify and let go of distractions, prioritizing their spiritual journey with perseverance and intentionality.

By drawing inspiration from the faithful witnesses, focusing on Jesus’ example, and shedding distractions, believers are equipped to run their race with perseverance. This enduring faith, rooted in God’s promises and Christ’s victory, enables us to navigate life’s challenges without growing weary or losing heart.

Faith example: faith does not waiver through unbelief - Abraham
Faith is informed.

Abraham's faith was based on the assurance that God had the power to do what he had promised. He was fully persuaded that God was all powerful and that he is faithful to his promises. Imagine what Abraham has to "take off" to keep going in his journey of seeing Isaac born, discouragement, anger etc.

Romans 4:18-21

¹⁸ Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be."^[a] ¹⁹ Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. ²⁰ Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, ²¹ being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. ²² This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness."

We need to be fully persuaded that the promises in the Word of God are true and for us. Faith is informed by the Word of God.

Week 4: Hall Of Faith: Faith in An Unshakeable Kingdom

Date: 23rd March 2025

Key Point of this week: Unshakeable faith rests on God's unchanging kingdom and inspires a life of gratitude, worship, and perseverance, grounded in his faithfulness and holiness.

Key Scripture:

Hebrews 12:28-29

²⁸Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, ²⁹for our God is a consuming fire."

What we are exploring this week: *What faith reminds us of – The Kingdom is Unshakeable and eternal.*

In this final week, we look at the unshakeable foundation of God's kingdom, inviting us to anchor our lives in God's eternal promises. Hebrews compares the fearsome mountain of the old covenant with the joyful and welcoming Mount Zion, symbolizing the new covenant in Jesus. We are encouraged to live by faith in this secure kingdom, embracing God's invitation to live with hope, holiness, and gratitude. This message reminds us that our faith is not only a shield but a source of unshakable strength, one that endures even when the world around us falters.

Historical Context (for Hebrews chapters 12-13):

Faith Principle: Faith In an Unshakeable Kingdom

Hebrews 12 and 13 address the call to endure suffering while keeping faith firmly rooted in God's promises. For the original audience, persecution and societal pressure made it tempting to abandon their commitment to Christ. The author contrasts the terrifying and temporary experience of Mount Sinai under the old covenant with the joyful and eternal kingdom represented by Mount Zion. This shift emphasizes the stability and permanence of God's kingdom, which cannot be shaken, even amidst trials.

The exhortation to live with reverence and awe reflects the gravity of standing before a holy God, whose presence is both consuming and transformative. In chapter 13, the practical outworking of faith is highlighted through calls to hospitality, generosity, respect for leadership, and steadfast worship. This historical context encourages

readers to embrace a faith that influences both their personal endurance and their community impact.

The Stability of God's Unshakable Kingdom

Hebrews 12:28 declares that believers have received a kingdom that cannot be shaken. This assurance contrasts with the instability of earthly kingdoms and the temporary nature of the old covenant (Mount Sinai). The unshakable nature of God's kingdom (Mount Zion) provides a foundation for enduring faith, offering believers the confidence to withstand trials and uncertainties. For the original audience, this was a reminder that their hope was not tied to changing circumstances but firmly anchored in God's eternal promises.

Modern believers are similarly called to rest in the stability of God's kingdom, finding peace and security in the midst of life's uncertainties with the knowledge that there is a future kingdom that we are a part of. As we see the author encourages the believers to focus on in 13:14 – "14 For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come."

Response to the Kingdom: Gratitude & Worship

In response to receiving an unshakable kingdom, Hebrews 12:28-29 urges believers to offer acceptable worship with reverence and awe. This worship is not merely ritualistic but a heartfelt response to God's holiness and majesty. The imagery of God as a "*consuming fire*" is a representation of his purity and his transformative power. Gratitude becomes a central theme, reminding believers to focus on God's gifts and faithfulness even in difficult times. This call to worship and gratitude encourages a posture of humility and awe, fostering a deep connection with God and aligning the believer's life with his purposes.

Living Out Faith in Community

Hebrews 13 provides practical instructions for living a life that reflects unshakable faith. Hospitality, generosity, and respect for leadership are emphasized as tangible expressions of a faith that transforms not only individual lives but also communities. The call to remember those suffering or in prison reflects the relational and sacrificial nature of the Christian faith. By living out these principles, believers demonstrate their trust in God's unshakable kingdom and their commitment to reflecting his character in the world. For contemporary Christians, this is a reminder that enduring faith is not just personal but communal, shaping relationships and fostering mutual encouragement.

By responding with gratitude, reverence, and worship, and by living out their faith in community, they reflect a faith that endures and inspires. This unshakable faith, rooted in God's holiness and promises, empowers believers to navigate life with confidence and purpose, regardless of the challenges they face.

Faith Example: Faith for God to Do the Impossible

Faith is Dependent on God – the story of the wall of Jericho is a story of having faith in God to do the impossible. The Israelites were dependent on God for the victory, they had the promise from God, they were active in walking around the walls, but God brought the walls down.

Joshua 5:15-16

¹⁵ On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times. ¹⁶ The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army, "Shout! For the Lord has given you the city!"