

I Believe

“Do You Believe in the Resurrection?”
Hebrews 11:1-2 – April 16-17, 2022

Our Sermon Series

I BELIEVE			
Exploring What You Believe from the Bible's Hall of Faith			
Date	Message Title	Hebrews	Faith Hero
April 17	Do You Believe in the Resurrection?	11:1-2	Jesus
April 24	Do You Believe That God Created Everything?	11:3	You
May 1	Do You Believe in the Rapture?	11:4-6	Enoch
May 8	Do You Believe in Noah and the Flood?	11:7	Noah
May 15	Do You Believe in Miracles?	11:8-16	Sarah
May 22	Do You Believe in Surrendering to God?	11:17-19	Abraham
May 29	Do You Believe God Holds Your Future?	11:20-22	Joseph
June 5	Do You Believe God is More Important Than Money?	11:23-27	Moses
June 12	Do You Believe in Divine Intervention?	11:28-29	Moses
June 19	Do You Believe God Can Use Sinful People?	11:30-31	Rahab
June 26	Do You Believe That You Have Enough Faith?	11:32-40	Daniel
More GF messages can be found at WhatsGrace.org/Watch			

What Do You Believe?

- What you believe is the most important thing about you!

Belief/Worldview	Consequence
“All men are jerks!”	I will stay away from all men or have bad relationships with men.
“I am worthless.”	I will have low self-esteem and be unhappy.
“I am the result of a random chance spark and primordial soup.”	I will live as though my life has no meaning but rather is random chance.
“All truth is relative.”	I will believe whatever I want and do whatever I want. I live like I am ultimately accountable to no one.
“The fetus inside a woman is not a real human yet.”	My choice or someone else's choice to have an abortion has no moral implications.
“There is a God”	I will seek to find and understand God and His meaning for my life.
“There is a God, and the Bible is His Word.”	I will look to the Bible for an understanding of my life's meaning, purpose, and direction.
“There is a God, and He deeply loves me.”	I will rest in His love for me and derive my identity and sense of value from God.
“I am ultimately accountable to God for my actions and choices.”	I will live my life in light of my accountability to God and His Word.
“My sins can be forgiven, and I can be saved from eternal separation from God.”	I will seek the path to forgiveness of and cleansing from my sins, and I will seek the path to eternal life in Heaven with God.”
“Prayer actually moves God to do something and draws me closer to Him.”	I will pray. I will pray not as a duty but as a conversation with a loving God who hears me and acts wisely in response to my prayers.

- The Bible says that what you believe affects and determines your eternity (John 3:16; Revelation 20:11-15).

Invitation to a Journey Called “I Believe”

- Spend 11 Sundays exploring what you believe by studying a chapter in the Bible that many call “The Bible’s Hall of Faith” (Hebrews 11)
- Outline of Hebrews 11
 - Definition of faith (Hebrews 11:1)
 - Ten examples of lives of faith (Hebrews 11:2-40)

Definition of Faith (Hebrews 11:1-3)

- NIV: *Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.*
- NLT: *Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see.*
- KJV: *Now faith is the **substance** of things hoped for; the **evidence** of things not seen.*
- hupostasis* = substance, confidence, confident assurance, title deed, essence
- elegchos* = evidence, proof
- Hebrews 11:3**
- Romans 1:20** – *For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – His eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.*
- Some definitions of faith based on Hebrews 11:1

Source	Definition of Faith
Jim	Faith is understanding invisible things by looking at visible things and then trusting God with our lives and trusting God by our actions. Faith is the title deed for what we are hoping for. Our faith serves as evidence to others that the invisible exists.
Michael Houdmann	Faith is trusting in something that you cannot explicitly prove. Faith includes both intellectual assent and trust. Intellectual assent is believing something to be true. Trust is actually relying on the fact that the something is true.
Tony Evans	Faith is acting like God is telling the truth. It is basing your actions on the belief that what God says is true. It is not necessarily feeling like God is telling the truth nor just saying that God is telling the truth. Faith is acting like God is telling the truth.
J.D. Greear	Faith happens when the unexplainable meets the undeniable. In the light of the undeniable, faith is willing to live with the tension of the unexplainable.
Philip Yancey	Faith is not the absence of doubt, but rather believing in spite of doubts. Doubt always coexists with faith, for in the presence of certainty who would need faith at all?
Anonymous Acrostics	F orsaking A ll I Trust Him F orward A ll Issues To Heaven F ollowing A lthough It's T erribly H ard

Examples of Faith (Hebrews 11:2-40)

- “the people of old” = *presbuteros* = “elders, presbyters”
- These are the elders of the faith – the mentors of the faith – the heroes of the faith. They are examples of faith for us to follow.
- My Personal Action Step – What is a faith step I’m wrestling with right now? And as I seek to take that faith step, what faith hero from The Bible’s Hall of Faith can I look to for encouragement and inspiration?
 - ABEL – sacrifices for God by faith (v.4 – May 1)
 - ENOCH – walks with God by faith (v.5 – May 1)
 - NOAH – obeys God by faith (v.7 – May 8)
 - ABRAHAM – moves to a new place/job by faith (vv.8-10 – May 15)
 - SARAH – believes God for the impossible by faith (vv.11-12 – May 15)
 - ABRAHAM – surrenders his child by faith (vv.17-19 – May 22)
 - ISAAC, JACOB, JOSEPH – trust God with future by faith (vv.20-22 – May 29)
 - MOSES’ PARENTS – commits civil disobedience by faith (v.23 – June 5)
 - MOSES – gives up big money to pursue God by faith (vv.24-27 – June 5)
 - ISRAELITES – believes God for a miracle by faith (vv.28-29 – June 12)
 - RAHAB – acts differently than everyone else by faith (vv.30-31 – June 19)
 - DANIEL – follows God by faith despite peer pressure (vv.32-40 – June 26)

Most Important “I Believe” Statement You Will Ever Make

- The most important “I believe” statement you will ever make in your whole life is either...
 - “I believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ” or
 - “I do not believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”
- **John 20:1-9**
- The evidence that John saw – the **empty tomb** (v.8) and the folded-up linen cloth (vv.5-7) – led him to believe (v.8).
- Eight additional pieces of evidence that strongly support something you cannot prove – namely, the resurrection of Jesus Christ:
 1. The chief priests insisted that the tomb be secured and not-breakable-into (Matthew 27:62-66). The enemies of Jesus went to extreme measures to make sure the disciples could not steal Jesus’ body.
 2. A large stone was rolled against the front of the tomb (Mark 16:4). The Bezae manuscripts of Mark 16:4 contain a footnote indicating the size of this stone was such “that 20 men could not roll it away.” Georgia Tech engineering professors estimate the stone to be 1.5-2.0 tons.
 3. This tomb was sealed with the Roman seal (Matthew 27:66). The Roman seal contains a warning of capital punishment for anyone who breaks the seal.
 4. The tomb was secured and guarded by the **Roman guard** (Matthew 27:65-66). The Roman guard was a 16-man security force. Four men were placed immediately in front of the tomb to actively guard it. The other 12 were asleep in a semi-circle in front of them with their heads pointing in. Every four hours, 4 of the

guards would rotate. If the four guards on duty were ever found asleep, they were to be punished by death. The Roman guard were considered the best trained soldiers in the world.

5. The disciples were too cowardly to steal Jesus’ body. They were still worried about what might happen to them because they had been associated with Jesus (John 20:19).
 6. There are over 500 eyewitnesses to the fact that Jesus was resurrected from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:3-8).
 7. If the disciples and family were trying to falsely claim that Christ was resurrected, they would not have used women as their first witnesses. Jewish principles of legal evidence said that women were not valid witnesses and that they did not have a right to give testimony in a court of law. Why would the Gospel accounts contain women as the first witnesses of the resurrection? (John 20:1-18)
 8. The **changed lives** of Jesus’ followers. Cowards before His resurrection (John 20:19); bold witnesses after His resurrection (Acts 2-5).
- The Bible says that if you believe in the resurrection, you will be saved from sin, death, and the devil.
 - **Romans 10:9** – *If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*

My Personal Action Step

- I choose to believe in the resurrected Christ. I choose both intellectual assent to His resurrection, and I place the weight of my trust in Jesus to save me from my sin and death.
- I choose to tell the whole world about my faith decision through public water baptism. Next immersion baptism is on Sunday, May 1, at 12:15. Sign up at WhatIsGrace.org/baptisms-at-grace-fellowship
- I choose to take one step of faith this week – namely...
- With God’s help and power, I choose to live a life of faith asking God that my epitaph be...

By faith....

- In light of the undeniable resurrection of Jesus Christ, I choose by faith to live with the tension of the unexplainable suffering that I see all around me.
- I choose to come all 11 Sundays of the “I Believe” series in order to explore belief and faith in The Bible’s Hall of Faith (Hebrews 11)