**Lesson 17 Hebrews 11:1-40**

**Hebrews 11:1-40 (NIV)**
1  Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.
2  This is what the ancients were commended for.
3  By 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.
4  By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.
5  By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God.
6  And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.
7  By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.
8  By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.
9  By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.
10  For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.
11  By faith Abraham, even though he was past age--and Sarah herself was barren--was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise.
12  And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.
13  All 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. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth.
14  People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own.
15  If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return.
16  Instead, 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.
17  By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son,
18  even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned."
19  Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death.
20  By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future.
21  By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph's sons, and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff.
22  By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions about his bones.
23  By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.
24  By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.
25  He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time.
26  He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.
27  By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.
28  By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.
29  By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.
30  By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days.
31  By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.
32  And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets,
33  who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions,
34  quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies.
35  Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection.
36  Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison.
37  They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated--
38  the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.
39  These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised.
40  God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

**Chapter 11**

[11:1-12:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A1-12%3A3) Encouragements to persevere in faith.

[11:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A2) the ancients. Heroes of faith in the pre-Christian era, such as those listed in this chapter. were commended for. Repeated in [v. 39](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A39), thus framing the chapter with a key thematic emphasis.

[11:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A4) See [Ge 4:2-5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+4%3A2-5). commended as a righteous man. The chief reason for the acceptance of Abel's sacrifice was that he offered it "by faith." It is implied that Cain's sacrifice was rejected because he offered it without faith, as a mere formality (see note on [Ge 4:3-4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+4%3A3-4); see also [1Jn 3:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Jn+3%3A12)).

[11:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A5) Enoch. See [Ge 5:18-24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+5%3A18-24). taken him away. To God's presence (see note on [Ge 5:24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+5%3A24); cf. [Ps 49:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+49%3A15); [73:24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+73%3A24)).

[11:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A6) without faith it is impossible to please God. That Enoch pleased God is proof of his faith. believe that he exists. Faith must have an object, and the proper object of genuine faith is God. who earnestly seek him. Cf. [Jer 29:13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+29%3A13).

[11:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A7) Noah. See [Ge 5:28-9:29](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+5%3A28-9%3A29). By his faith he condemned. When the flood came, God's word was proved to be true, Noah's faith was vindicated, and the world's unbelief was judged. righteousness that comes by faith. Noah expressed complete trust in God and his word, even when it related to "things not yet seen" (cf. [v. 1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A1)), namely, the coming flood. Thus Noah also fitted the description of God's righteous ones who "live by faith" ([10:38](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+10%3A38)).

[11:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A8) Abraham. Presented in the NT as the outstanding example of those who live "by faith" and as the "father of all who believe" ([Ro 4:11-12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+4%3A11-12),[16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+4%3A16); see [Gal 3:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+3%3A7),[9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+3%3A9),[29](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+3%3A29)). called. See [Ge 12:1-3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+12%3A1-3). His faith expressed itself in obedience (see note on [Ge 12:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+12%3A4)). a place he would later receive. Canaan.

[11:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A10) city with foundations. Speaks of permanence in contrast to the tents in which the patriarch lived ([v. 9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A9)). This city is "the heavenly Jerusalem" ([12:22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+12%3A22)), "the city that is to come" ([13:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A14)) and "the new Jerusalem" ([Rev 21:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+21%3A2)). builder. See [v. 16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A16); cf. [Eph 2:19-22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+2%3A19-22); [1Pe 2:4-5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Pe+2%3A4-5) and notes; cf. also [Ps 147:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+147%3A2) and note on [Isa 62:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+62%3A5).

[11:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A11) Sarah... was barren. See [Ge 11:30](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+11%3A30); [18:11-12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+18%3A11-12) and notes.

[11:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A12) as good as dead. Because he was 100 years old (see [Ge 21:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+21%3A5); [Ro 4:19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+4%3A19)). stars in the sky... sand on the seashore. See [Ge 13:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+13%3A16) and note; [15:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+15%3A5); [22:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+22%3A17); [26:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+26%3A4); [1Ki 4:20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ki+4%3A20) and note.

[11:13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A13) saw them and welcomed them from a distance. By faith they saw—dimly—the realities to which the promises pointed and were sure that what they hoped for would ultimately be theirs (see [v. 1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A1)). aliens and strangers on earth. As were the patriarchs in Canaan (see [Ge 17:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+17%3A8); [23:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+23%3A4); [28:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+28%3A4)). Their true home was the future city of God (see [vv. 10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A10),[16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A16)).

[11:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A14) country of their own. A country in which they would no longer be "aliens and strangers" ([v. 13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A13)). "Country" and "city" were virtually interchangeable since a country was viewed as an extension of its royal city.

[11:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A16) prepared a city for them. See [v. 10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A10) and note.

[11:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A17) See [Ge 22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+22). his one and only son. See [Ge 22:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+22%3A2),[12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+22%3A12),[16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+22%3A16) and notes.

[11:19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A19) Cf. [Ge 22:13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+22%3A13) and note.

[11:20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A20) See [Ge 27:27-40](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+27%3A27-40).

[11:21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A21) See [48:9-20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+48%3A9-20). worshiped... staff. See [Ge 47:31](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+47%3A31) and note.

[11:22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A22) See [Ge 50:24-25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+50%3A24-25). Jacob ([v. 21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A21)) and Joseph are additional examples of those whose faith is no less strong at death than in life ([v. 13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A13)).

[11:23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A23) See [Ex 2:2-3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+2%3A2-3); [Ac 7:20-44](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+7%3A20-44). Moses' parents. See [Ex 6:20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+6%3A20); [Nu 26:58-59](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Nu+26%3A58-59). no ordinary child. See note on [Ex 2:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+2%3A2). were not afraid. At least to the extent that they were ready to defy the king's edict. king's edict. To kill all Israelite males at birth ([Ex 1:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+1%3A16),[22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+1%3A22)).

[11:24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A24) son of Pharaoh's daughter. See [Ex 2:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+2%3A10).

[11:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A25) pleasures of sin. The luxury and prestige of Egypt's royal palace.

[11:26](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A26) for the sake of Christ. Although Moses' understanding of the details of Israel's promised future was extremely limited, he chose to be associated with the people through whom that future was to be realized. The author of Hebrews here concretizes that future in the person of the Messiah he is proclaiming as the one through whom God has guaranteed the promised future. treasures of Egypt. The priceless treasures of King Tutankhamun's tomb alone included several thousand pounds of pure gold.

[11:27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A27) By faith he left Egypt. Probably referring to his flight to Midian when he was 40 years old (see [Ex 2:11-15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+2%3A11-15) and note; [Ac 7:23-29](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+7%3A23-29)). not fearing the king's anger. Exodus indicates that Moses was afraid ([Ex 2:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+2%3A14)) but does not expressly say of whom. And it tells us that he fled from the pharaoh when the pharaoh tried to kill him ([Ex 2:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+2%3A15)) but does not expressly say that he fled out of fear. The author of Hebrews capitalizes on these features of the account to highlight the fact that, in his fleeing from the pharaoh, Moses was sustained by his trust in God that the liberation of Israel would come and that he would have some part in it. he persevered. For 40 years in Midian ([Ac 7:30](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+7%3A30)). saw him who is invisible. See [vv. 1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A1),[6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A6); see also [Ro 1:20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+1%3A20); [Col 1:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Col+1%3A15) and note; [1Ti 1:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ti+1%3A17).

[11:28](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A28) See [Ex 12:1-30](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+12%3A1-30).

[11:29](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A29) See [Ex 14-15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+14-15). The third and final 40-year period of Moses' life was spent leading the Israelites through the desert. At the age of 120 years he died in Moab ([Dt 34:1-7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Dt+34%3A1-7)).

[11:30-31](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A30-31) See [Jos 2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jos+2); [6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jos+6).

[11:30](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A30) Jericho. The first obstacle to Israel's conquest of the promised land under Joshua's leadership was captured by faith without a battle.

[11:31](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A31) By faith. See [Jos 6:9-11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jos+6%3A9-11). prostitute. A designation of this Canaanite's way of life within Canaanite society. welcomed the spies. See [Jas 2:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jas+2%3A25).

[11:32-38](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A32-38) There were many more heroes of faith before the coming of Christ, and much more could be written about them. Only a small sampling is given, representing all types of men and women of faith. The great quality they had in common was that of overcoming "through faith" ([v. 33](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A33)).

[11:32](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A32) to tell. Translates the masculine form of a Greek verb, indicating that the author of Hebrews was a man (see Introduction: Author). Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah. See [Jdg 4-8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+4-8); [11-16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+11-16); [1Sa 12:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+12%3A11) and NIV text note. Samuel and the prophets. For Samuel being counted as the first among the prophets see [Ac 3:24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+3%3A24); [13:20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+13%3A20); cf. [Ps 99:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+99%3A6); [Jer 15:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+15%3A1) and notes.

[11:33](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A33) conquered kingdoms. See, e.g., David's conquests ([2Sa 5:6-25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Sa+5%3A6-25); [8:1-14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Sa+8%3A1-14); [10:1-19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Sa+10%3A1-19); [12:26-31](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Sa+12%3A26-31)). administered justice. See, e.g., Samuel ([1Sa 12:3-5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+12%3A3-5)); David ([2Sa 8:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Sa+8%3A15)); Solomon ([1Ki 3:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ki+3%3A9),[12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ki+3%3A12),[16-28](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ki+3%3A16-28)). gained what was promised. May refer to Israel's circumstances of rest in the promised land to which Solomon refers in [1Ki 5:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ki+5%3A4) (see note there); see also [Jos 23:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jos+23%3A14); [24:8-13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jos+24%3A8-13); [2Ch 20:30](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ch+20%3A30) (see note there). shut the mouths of lions. See, e.g., Daniel in the lions' den ([Da 6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+6)).

[11:34](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A34) quenched the fury of the flames. See, e.g., Daniel's friends, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, in the "blazing furnace" ([Da 3:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+3%3A6),[11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+3%3A11),[15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+3%3A15),[17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+3%3A17),[20-21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+3%3A20-21),[23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+3%3A23),[26](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+3%3A26); see note on [Da 3:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+3%3A17)). escaped the... sword. See, e.g., David ([1Sa 17:45-49](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+17%3A45-49)); Elijah ([2Ki 1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ki+1)); Elisha ([2Ki 6:31](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ki+6%3A31)); Jeremiah ([Jer 26:7-24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+26%3A7-24)). weakness was turned to strength. See, e.g., Samson ([Jdg 16:21-30](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+16%3A21-30)); Hannah ([1Sa 1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+1)); Jeremiah ([Jer 1:6-10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+1%3A6-10)).

[11:35](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A35) Women received back their dead. Cf. the widow of Zarephath ([1Ki 17:17-24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ki+17%3A17-24)) and the Shunammite woman ([2Ki 4:8-36](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ki+4%3A8-36)). were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. Strongly reminiscent of the heroic Maccabean Jewish patriots of the second century b.c. (in the Apocrypha see [2 Maccabees 7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ma+7)).

[11:36](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A36) jeers and flogging. See, e.g., Jeremiah ([Jer 20:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+20%3A2),[7-8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+20%3A7-8)). put in prison. See, e.g., Jeremiah ([Jer 37:15-16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+37%3A15-16)).

[11:37](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A37) They were stoned. See, e.g., Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada the priest, who was stoned to death for declaring the truth ([2Ch 24:21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ch+24%3A21)). sawed in two. Perhaps refers to Isaiah, who, according to tradition, met this kind of death under wicked King Manasseh (see Introduction to Isaiah: Author).

[11:39](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A39) all commended for their faith. By the Holy Spirit in the Scriptural accounts (see [v. 2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A2); [3:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+3%3A7) and notes).

[11:40](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A40) God had planned something better. The fulfillment for them, as for us, is in Christ who is "the resurrection and the life" ([Jn 11:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+11%3A25)). only together with us would they be made perfect. All persons of faith who had gone before focused their faith on God and his promises. The fulfillment of God's promises to them has now come in Jesus Christ, and their redemption too is now complete in him.

**NIV Study Bible.**

**Open it**

1. If you were able to listen to your own funeral eulogy (Tom Sawyer style), how would you like to hear yourself described?
 **As a man of God able to discern the truth**

2. What do you consider the greatest example of faith you have ever seen? Why?
 **This church, we continue to teach the bible in the right way**

**Explore it**

3. What is faith? ([11:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A1))
 **It is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.**

4. What does faith help us to comprehend about the creation of the world? ([11:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A3))
 **By 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.**

5. How did Abel demonstrate faith? ([11:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A4))
 **By brining the offering that God desired not what Cain thought would work**

6. What was unusual about Enoch? ([11:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A5))
 **He went to heaven without having to die**

7. What role does faith play in approaching and pleasing God? ([11:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A6))
 **Without faith it is not possible to please God, we must believe in him and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.**

8. What did Noah’s faith prompt him to do? ([11:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A7))
 **By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.**

9. How did faith affect Abraham’s life? ([11:8-12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A8-12))
 **He went where God told him, not knowing where he was going, he made his home in the promised land living in tents as did Isaac and Jacob, who also were hears with him. He was liking forward to the city with foundations that God had built and even Sarah beyond the age of bear children was able to, by faith in God. Because she had faith in him who promised. From this one man, and he beyond child giving age, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the beach.**

10. How does faith change a person’s focus and perspective? ([11:13-16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A13-16))
 **You see the long view, not just the here and now.**

11. What ultimate test of faith did God put Abraham through? ([11:17-19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A17-19))
 **He offered his only son as sacrifice to God.**

12. What hard choices did Moses make because of his faith? ([11:24-28](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A24-28))
 **Giving up his Pharaohs son position when he learned he was a Jew, he then lead the Jews away from Egypt. Not fearing the anger of the king’s temper.**

13. What "secret" enabled Moses to persevere through rough times? ([11:27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A27))
 **He had seen the invisible God**

14. What were some of the victories enjoyed by faithful Old Testament believers? ([11:32-34](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A32-34))
 **They administered justice, gained what was promised had the lions mouth shut so they did not get harmed. Quenched the fury of the flames escaped the edge of the sword, had weakness turned into strength, became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. Women received back their dead raised to life again.**

15. How does this passage disprove the notion that faith always leads to earthly blessing? ([11:35-38](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A35-38))
 **Some were tortured, refusing to be released, so as to gain a better resurrection. The world was not worthy of them and they wandered in deserts and mountain living in caves an holes in the ground. *In this world we will have tribulations.***

16. What happened to a great many Old Testament saints who exercised faith in God? ([11:39](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A39))
 **These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, 40 since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.**
**Get it**

17. What prompts committed followers of Christ to continue to exercise faith even when He never seems to "come through" for them?
 **God has promised heaven to us, not heaven here on earth**

18. Why do you think the author said that "the world was not worthy of" the heroes of faith mentioned in [Hebrews 11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11)?
 **They were mistreated for their love and belief in God**

**Apply it**

19. What is one way you can remind yourself to live as an alien and stranger at work and in your community?
 **Remember who we are, Children of God, not of this world**

20. With what do you need to trust God even though you can’t see what the future holds? How can you show this trust?
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