

Hebrews 11:1-16

August 1, 2018

"If previously the doctrine has been laid that faith is the principle of all actual relationship with God, now Chapter 11 provides from the Old Testament itself numerous examples of positive proof that **faith is the one principle that produces real results for God in all ages** [emphasis added]. It is the experimental proof. And these examples of faith are the more remarkable when we consider that the dispensation of law did not in any way emphasize faith, as does our present dispensation of grace, which indeed may be termed 'a dispensation for faith.'+ But though not publicly taught in the Old Testament, yet faith is seen to be the only actual energizing power by which anything for God was accomplished. The Psalms actually are full of declaration of the blessedness of faith, but the law did not declare it as a necessary doctrine. However, there is power in faith that could not but manifest itself in spite of the legal system." Leslie M. Grant, *Comments on the Book of Hebrews*

It was faith all all along!

Questions:

1. The Bible usually describes faith by examples. Verse 1 gives a rare formal description. What does it mean? Can you think of some examples of things that are known/believed only through faith?
2. What is the significance of verse 2?
3. Verse 3 says that all we can see around us came out of unseen origins. How does this relate to faith? [For the science minded, what is the invisible ingredient that can be used to make visible matter?]
4. What was Abel's act of faith?

5. How can a person please God?

6. What are some notable acts of faith from the life of Abraham?

7. Where else in scripture is Abraham held up as a model of faith in God?

8. Verse 12 speaks of Abraham's descendants. Who are his earthly descendants? Who are his spiritual descendants?

9. What can Christians take from Abraham's walk of faith?

10. Identify the specific message to the Hebrew readers in verses 15-16.