

## CHARACTERISTICS OF FAITH

### *Lets God Make Your Future*

Hebrews 11:7-12

#### **Introduction:**

##### A. God and the future

1. God does not s\_\_\_\_\_ the future and tells us parts of it. He d\_\_\_\_\_ the future that He makes happen (Is 46:9-11).
2. God allows much of the future to be made by us, even if it is not one that He wants for us (e.g. – 1Sam 8 – God gave Israel a k\_\_\_\_\_ even though it was not what He desired for them).

##### B. God desires a certain future for you.

1. He gives believers a c\_\_\_\_\_ whether or not to go with His plans for you or your own.
2. Will you be inspired to have a faith like Noah, Abraham, and Sarah, who allowed God to make their future? (Heb 11:7-12).

##### C. Here are two questions our text asks in regards to letting God make our future.

#### **How well do you receive God's warnings?**

##### A. The faith of Noah (Gen 6-7)

1. God saw the w\_\_\_\_\_ of mankind and decided to destroy all mankind and start over with Noah and his family (Gen 6:5,6)
2. God w\_\_\_\_\_ Noah of the coming flood (Heb 11:7)
3. Noah response (Heb 11:7)
  - a. In reverence (KJV – fear; NIV – holy fear) – the Greek term literally means *to receive w*\_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. He built the ark according to God's i\_\_\_\_\_
4. In those 120 years, do you think that Noah received any opposing messages designed to put doubt into him?

##### B. An example of God's warning to us

1. Jesus will return like a t\_\_\_\_\_ in the night, which means suddenly (Matt 24:27 - like lightning flashing from east to west; 1Thess 5:3 – destruction will come upon the world suddenly at His coming).
2. Jesus will return visibly (Rev 1:7 – every e\_\_\_\_\_ will see Him coming in the clouds).
3. Receiving this warning well means we will act in faith according to His instructions.

##### C. Examples of acting in faith according to God's instructions

1. Matt 24:14 states that the gospel will be preached to all the nations and then the e\_\_\_\_\_ will come. Matt 28:19 commands us to make disciples of all the n\_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Doubt says – I don't believe that I can make a difference.
  - b. Faith says – I will support mission work and witness when there is opportunity so God can use me to bring about Christ's coming.
2. Matt 24:42 commands us to be on the alert for Christ's coming because we do not know which day He is coming. 2Pet 3:11,12 urges us that by living holy and godly lives, we h\_\_\_\_\_ on the coming of the Lord.
  - a. Doubt says – I don't believe that God will make a difference through me.
  - b. Faith says – My holy conduct will be used by God to touch a life and bring about His coming.
3. 1Thess 4:13 – believers do not have to grieve over their believing loved ones who die.
  - a. Doubt says – it's a final goodbye and I will have no joy without them.
  - b. Faith says – I will see them again and will not let it steal my joy.

### **How well do you believe God's wisdom?**

#### **A. How does faith relate to reason?**

1. W\_\_\_\_\_ reasoning – is not to be the standard of reasoning when it comes to the things of God
2. Our own reasoning – is not to be the standard of reasoning when it comes to the things of God
3. God's reasoning is h\_\_\_\_\_ than our reasoning or the world's reasoning (Is 55:8,9)

#### **B. Faith in God's wisdom often looks f\_\_\_\_\_ to the world**

1. Abraham's faith (Heb 11:8-12; Gen 12)
  - a. Abraham obeyed God's command to l\_\_\_\_\_ his country and family.
  - b. Abraham did not k\_\_\_\_\_ where he was to go.
  - c. God promised to make a great n\_\_\_\_\_ from Abraham's descendants.
  - d. Abraham had moments of wavering faith (e.g. his fear that Pharaoh would kill him and take Sarah)
2. Sarah's faith (Heb 11:11; Gen 18 & 21)
  - a. Her initial response that she would bear a son – l\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Her eventual response – she believed (Heb 11:11)

- C. What promises of God seem foolish to the world and what action shows that you believe God's wisdom?
1. Matt 6:33 - *Seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things [basic needs] will be added to you.*
    - a. Do your f\_\_\_\_\_ show that God's kingdom work is your first priority?
    - b. Does your state of m\_\_\_\_\_ show it? (Do you worry about basic needs? Do you thank God for supplying your needs?)
  2. *And we know that God causes all things to work out for the good of those who love Him* - Romans 8:29.
    - a. How have you reacted to t\_\_\_\_\_ in your life?
    - b. What response would demonstrate faith?
  3. *Those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength* – Isaiah 40:31
    - a. Do you show p\_\_\_\_\_
    - b. What action of God are you praying for?
      - 1) Do you l\_\_\_\_\_ for God's activity?
      - 2) Do you wait for God's a\_\_\_\_\_?
      - 3) Are you continually a\_\_\_\_\_, seeking, and knocking? (Lk 11:9)

### **Conclusion:**

1. There are many decisions we have to make for our future that God does not reveal (e.g. which vocation to pursue)
  - a. God gives us p\_\_\_\_\_ to live by.
  - b. Live them in all your decisions.
2. The Bible is full of warnings and promises.
  - a. Faith r\_\_\_\_\_ on God's power to control our future as we receive His warnings and believe His promises.
  - b. God future for you is the b\_\_\_\_\_ you can have.