

Hebrews 11:1 – 12:1-3

It is often much easier to talk about faith than actually having the faith. I always remember someone told me an incident or story about faith. A tightrope walker (slacklining) can walk on a thin strip across two tall buildings. He did it many times. When the walker/performer asked the audience “Do you have faith that I can do that again?”, the answer was certain. However, when he asked does anyone like to go up with him so that he can hold that person while walking across the two tall buildings on a thin strip, nobody has the faith to try. So how much do you know about faith in God and how much faith do you have? Today, we are going to study faith and how does it apply to you.

Book of Hebrew is one of the Bible books that covers the topic on faith extensively. The author has not been identified. The book is likely written before AD 70. The main content of the book can be summarized as 1) the superiority of Jesus Christ which is over angels, Moses and Aaronic priests, 2) the superiority of Jesus Christ as our high Priest and 3) the importance and practice of faith.

### **1) Faith – believing the events happened in the past**

Heb. 11:1 “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see”. We first discuss about things that we do not see. The Bible is not talking about any events or things. Certain past events we must believe even we have no way to see it. Believing those critical past events is the start of one’s faith. One of them is listed in Heb. 11:3, “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.” We need to believe God created the universe with His words in the past (read Gen. 1:1-31). The second critical past event that one must believe is Jesus was here on earth for us and He is son of God. Romans 10:9 states “that if you confess your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the death, you will be saved”.

Believing these true past events of God’s creation and Jesus physically lived on earth and died for us is the beginning of one’s faith journey.

### **2) Faith – living your life by it in the present**

Heb. 12:1-3 states “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.” Each of our life journey will not be easy. However, we need to fix our eyes on Jesus and trust Him. Be persevere. Each trial that you live through is a faith building experience. Therefore, living your life by faith today is the faith maturing process.

### **3) Faith – Knowing the promises will be fulfilled in the future**

Heb. 11:13 is a very important verse about His promises and the future. It states “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, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth.”

Faith is knowing and assuring God’s promises will be fulfilled, if you are not able to witness that in your physical life time then it will happen in the future.

Heb. 11:16 states “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”.

Heb. 12:22-23 supports above stating we will go to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. This is our hope for the future. We will go to a wonderful place God has prepared for us. God will also reward us (II Tim.4:7-8, I Peter 5:4, Rev. 22:12).

Confidence of what we hope for means we know God’s promises will be fulfilled in the future if they haven’t fulfilled yet.

Finally, are you willing to walk on the narrow strip with the tightrope walker? Probably not because most likely you still have some doubt on him. However, are you willing to walk the narrow strip of life which is full of dangers with the almighty God? Without knowing and assuring your faith based on the above, it is impossible

for you to walk your life journey with confidence, peace and joy. Let us have faith in God, and go through our life journeys depending and trusting Him.