

THE POWER OF FAITH

Hebrews 11:1-6

- **In *The Power Principle* Emphasis we're going to become stronger Christians as we learn and apply life-changing principles to our lives.**
- **The Christian life is a "faith life" because it begins with faith (Ephesians 2:8-9), it's sustained by faith (Galatians 2:20), and it ends with faith (2 Timothy 4:7-8).**
- *"Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."* (Hebrews 11:1 NIV)
- **Faith is knowing for sure that God is real and His promises are sure; it is trusting in God's love, integrity, power and words.**
- *"It is impossible to please God without faith."* (Hebrews 11:6)
- ***How does living by faith change our lives?***

When We Live By Faith It Changes Our:

PERSPECTIVE OF GOD

- *"By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God's command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen."* (Hebrews 11:3)
- **Christians believe that there had to be a Creator behind the creation, and that our God is the God of creation..**
- *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."* (Genesis 1:1)
- "Creationism is the belief that matter and all things were created, substantially as they now exist, by an omnipotent Creator, and not gradually evolved." - Dictionary.com
- **Believing "God created the heavens, the earth and humankind" requires faith, but all intelligent humans live by faith in someone or something.**
- **If God created the universe it means that He is all-powerful and all-knowing, and that He has wonderful plans for our world and for people.**

- *"'For I know the plans I have for you,' says the LORD. 'They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.'"* (Jeremiah 29:11)

When We Live By Faith It Changes Our:

PRIORITIES WHEN IT COMES TO LIFE

- *"It was by faith that Abel brought a more acceptable offering to God than Cain did. Abel's offering gave evidence that he was a righteous man, and God showed His approval of his gifts. Although Abel is long dead, he still speaks to us by his example of faith."* (Hebrews 11:4)
- ***What did Abel do that made him such a great example of faith?***
- *"When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the Lord. Abel also brought a gift - the best portions of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The Lord accepted Abel and his gift, but he did not accept Cain and his gift."* (Genesis 4:3-5)
- **When we live by faith we're willing to "put God first" in our lives.**
- **When we're living by faith we are willing to *Put God First in our Finances*.**
    - Solomon - *"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first-fruits of all your crops . . ."* (Proverbs 3:9-10)
    - **God constantly tells us that money is a test of our priorities (Deuteronomy 14:23, Matthew 6:21-24; 1 Timothy 6:9-10).**
- **When we're living by faith we are willing to *Put God First in our Interests*.**
    - **GOD wants to be "first" in our businesses, careers, hobbies, recreation, etc.**
    - *"Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of GOD."* (1 Corinthians 10:31)
    - **Our "priorities in life are discerned by observing what we're excited about or talk about the most.**
- **When we're living by faith we are willing to *Put God First in our Relationships*.**
    - **GOD'S desires for our lives are to come before those of our family members or friends.**
    - Jesus – *"Those who love their father or mother or their son or daughter more than Me are not fit to be My disciples."* (Matthew 10:37)
- **When we're living by faith we are willing to *Put God First in our Schedules*.**
    - *"Don't act thoughtlessly, but try to find out and do whatever the LORD wants you to do."* (Ephesians 5:17)
    - **We put GOD "first" in our schedules when we: 1) Make and keep a daily "appointment" with Him (Luke 10:38-42), 2) Worship Him weekly with other Christians (Hebrews 10:22-25), and 3) Ask the LORD to direct us as we put together our daily schedule and "to do list."**
- **When we're living by faith we are willing to *Put God First in our Troubles*.**

- **The LORD should be the first one we turn to when facing difficulties.**
- Jesus - *"Don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your Heavenly Father already knows all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of GOD above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need."* (Matthew 6:31-33)

When We Live By Faith It Changes Our:

PURSUIT OF GOD IN OUR LIVES

- ***"****It was by faith that Enoch was taken up to heaven without dying - "he disappeared, because God took him." For before he was taken up, he was known as a person who pleased God."* (Hebrews 11:5)
- ***What was it about Enoch's life that was so pleasing to the Lord?***
- *"When Enoch was 65 years old, he became the father of Methuselah. After the birth of Methuselah, Enoch lived in close fellowship with God for another 300 years, and he had other sons and daughters."* (Genesis 5:21-22)
- **To live in close fellowship with God we have to *Prioritize Deepening Our Relationship With Him*.**
  - **We have to want to know the Lord better than anyone or anything else in our lives (Jeremiah 29:13).**
- **To live in close fellowship with God we have to *Practice Deepening Our Relationship With The Lord*.**
  - **Staying close to the Lord requires: 1) Pursuing Him daily through prayer, worship and Bible reading, 2) Connecting with other Believers regularly (i.e. Life Groups/Serving Teams, etc), and 3) Worshiping with other Believers weekly (Hebrews 10:22-25).**
  - *"Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep His promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near."* (Hebrews 10;23-25)
  - **We won't have a strong relationship with someone we don't spend time with or converse with.**

- *"Through their faith, the people in days of old earned a good reputation. . . . Anyone who wants to come to Him must believe that God exists and that He rewards those who sincerely seek Him."* (Hebrews 11:2, 6)
- **When we live by faith we will have a good reputation with God and others, and we will be rewarded by the Lord..**

- *“Every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith.”* (1 John 5:4)
- **When we live by faith we will be able to live vibrant, victorious lives.**
- ***What is the Lord saying to me through this message, and how am I going to respond to it?***