Faith for Life

Lesson 1 – Great Examples of Faith

1. It is important for all of us not only to know what we believe but why we believe it.
   1. One will say I have faith in my doctor. Here faith contains an element of trust and confidence.
   2. Faith is NOT mere opinion or speculation. It is conviction based upon evidence.
   3. Some will state, from a religious perspective, that God bestows faith upon individuals he chooses by way of the Holy Spirit.
      1. For God to give certain people faith arbitrarily would make God a respecter of person.
         1. The Bible is emphatic God is NOT a respecter of persons
            1. Acts 10:34-35; Rom. 2:11; 10:12; Eph. 6:9; Col. 3:25; 1 Pet.1:17
         2. If salvation totally depended on the Holy Spirit bestowing knowledge upon me, and I am spiritually lost, I could then blame God.
   4. Faith is our part in the salvation process (1 John 5:4).
      1. Salvation depends upon man exercising his own free will (John 5:40; 7:17; Matt. 23:39; Acts 2:40).
      2. It is man’s responsibility to have an “honest and good” heart (Luke 8:4-18).
      3. It is man’s responsibility to be in harmony with God, to walk with Him (Heb.3:12)
      4. Do we believe in God? Do we trust in God? If so, it will show in the way we live our lives.
      5. Those who have faith in God will NOT shrink back from the challenges and threats of life but will live in a manner pleasing to God.
2. Hebrews 11
   1. This chapter constitutes the greatest discussion of biblical faith ever published.
   2. It begins with a definition of faith (which we will discuss next week, but then provides us examples of how the patriarchs of the past possessed a confident faith, grounded in the solid testimony that had been conveyed to them (Heb. 11:2).
3. Great examples of Faith
   1. Noah
      1. Hebrews 11:7
      2. Genesis 6:13-9:1
         1. Most Hebrew scholars believe the cubit to have been no less than 18 inches long. This means that the Ark would have been at least 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high].
         2. Took over 100 years to complete
   2. Abraham and Isaac
      1. Heb. 11:17-19
      2. Gen. 22:1-12
   3. Moses
      1. Heb. 11:23-29
      2. Exodus 1:1- 14:31
         1. Ex. 2:15
         2. Ex. 12
         3. Ex. 14
   4. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego
      1. Daniel 3
      2. Refuse to worship a false God
   5. Daniel
      1. Daniel 6
      2. Refuses to pray to a false God
   6. Christ
      1. Knew His fate since before the beginning of time
      2. Matt. 26
         1. Encounter with Judas at last supper
         2. Praying in the Garden
         3. Before Caiaphas, Pilot, Herod
         4. Scourging
         5. On the cross
   7. Stephen
      1. Acts 7