



# JESUS

Up Close and Personal

A Study of Hebrews | The Pastors' Bible Study 2013-2014

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## Hebrews 11:1-16

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### Hebrews 11:1-16 (ESV)

**11** <sup>1</sup> Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup> For by it the people of old received their commendation. <sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

<sup>4</sup> By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. <sup>5</sup> By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. <sup>6</sup> And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. <sup>7</sup> By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

<sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup> By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup> For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. <sup>11</sup> By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup> Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

<sup>13</sup> These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. <sup>14</sup> For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

## **Reflection Questions**

1. People put their faith in a lot of different things. What are other current objects of your faith (money, reputation, vocation, position, etc.) besides Jesus?
2. Why do you think God accepted Abel's offering rather than Cain's offering? Was this fair? Why or why not? How should we live our life when situations do not seem fair to us?
3. What reward did Noah receive for his faith (verse 7)? How does that compare to our own reward in Christ?
4. How bold was it for Abraham to trust God, leave his environment and all of the comforts that he knew, and follow God's plan toward a very unique inheritance? Would you be able to do something similar, if God asked you to do so?
5. Did Sarah always have faith that was free of any doubts? Did God reward that faith? How does that compare with us?
6. With their limited knowledge and perspective, what was the ultimate promise that these Old Testament heroes were seeking? Was God offering more than this? What does that say about the nature of God? Are His promises to us limited by our own outlook and perspectives?