

**Hebrews 11:39-40 (GW)** <sup>39</sup> All these people were known for their faith, but none of them received what God had promised. <sup>40</sup> God planned to give us something very special so that we would gain eternal life with them.

17) What do we receive by faith?

**Hebrews 12:1 (GW)** <sup>1</sup> Since we are surrounded by so many examples of faith, we must get rid of everything that slows us down, especially sin that distracts us. We must run the race that lies ahead of us and never give up.

18) How are we surrounded by examples of faith?

19) What is the warning that is given in this verse? Why?

**Hebrews 12:2-3 (GW)** <sup>2</sup> We must focus on Jesus, the source and goal of our faith. He saw the joy ahead of him, so he endured death on the cross and ignored the disgrace it brought him. Now he holds the honored position—the one next to God the Father on the heavenly throne. <sup>3</sup> Think about Jesus, who endured opposition from sinners, so that you don't become tired and give up.

20) How do we keep from getting distracted?

21) How does focusing on Jesus and his suffering for us help us in our lives of faith?

22) Who has God placed in your life to be an example of living faith?

23) How will you pass on the faith to others?

## Faith of Our Fathers

1) How does the faith of those who have gone before us help us?

**Hebrews 11:1-12 (GW)** <sup>1</sup> Faith assures us of things we expect and convinces us of the existence of things we cannot see. <sup>2</sup> God accepted our ancestors because of their faith.

2) What are two benefits of faith found in Hebrews 11:1?

3) What is the promise found in Hebrews 11:2?

**Hebrews 11:3 (GW)** <sup>3</sup> Faith convinces us that God created the world through his word. This means what can be seen was made by something that could not be seen.

4) Why do we need faith to believe that God created everything?

5) Which takes more faith: to believe that God created everything or to believe that everything came from nothing on its own? Why?

**Hebrews 11:4 (GW)** <sup>4</sup> Faith led Abel to offer God a better sacrifice than Cain's sacrifice. Through his faith Abel received God's approval, since God accepted his sacrifices. Through his faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead.

6) What was the benefit of Abel's faith?

7) What do we learn from Abel's faith?

**Hebrews 11:5-6 (GW)** <sup>5</sup> Faith enabled Enoch to be taken instead of dying. No one could find him, because God had taken him. Scripture states that before Enoch was taken, God was pleased with him. <sup>6</sup> No one can please God without faith. Whoever goes to God must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

8) How did Enoch's faith benefit him?

9) What is a requirement of faith according to Hebrews 11:6?

**Hebrews 11:7 (GW)** <sup>7</sup> Faith led Noah to listen when God warned him about the things in the future that he could not see. He obeyed God and built a ship to save his family. Through faith Noah condemned the world and received God's approval that comes through faith.

10) How did Noah's faith benefit him?

11) What do we learn from Noah's faith?

**Hebrews 11:8 (GW)** <sup>8</sup> Faith led Abraham to obey when God called him to go to a place that he would receive as an inheritance. Abraham left his own country without knowing where he was going.

12) What did faith cause Abraham to do?

**Hebrews 11:9—10 (GW)** <sup>9</sup> Faith led Abraham to live as a foreigner in the country that God had promised him. He lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who received the same promise from God. <sup>10</sup> Abraham was waiting for the city that God had designed and built, the city with permanent foundations.

13) What did Abraham's faith cause him to do?

**Hebrews 11:11-12 (GW)** <sup>11</sup> Faith enabled Abraham to become a father, even though he was old and Sarah had never been able to have children. Abraham trusted that God would keep his promise. <sup>12</sup> Abraham was as good as dead. Yet, from this man came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the grains of sand on the seashore.

14) What did faith enable Abraham to do?

15) How did Abraham pass on his faith?

**Hebrews 11:13-16 (GW)** <sup>13</sup> All these people died having faith. They didn't receive the things that God had promised them, but they saw these things coming in the distant future and rejoiced. They acknowledged that they were living as strangers with no permanent home on earth. <sup>14</sup> Those who say such things make it clear that they are looking for their own country. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking about the country that they had left, they could have found a way to go back. <sup>16</sup> Instead, these men were longing for a better country—a heavenly country. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God. He has prepared a city for them.

16) What is the point of having faith if you do not receive in this life the things you are believing?