

SHARPEN THE POINT

For further study of today's message.

ENTRY POINT: Hebrews has been called "The Bible in a Book." Hebrews 11 is sometimes referred to as the "Hall of Faith." It tells of people of great faith who persevered through difficult times *by that faith alone*, often seeing no visible results themselves - but trusting that God's promises would be fulfilled. Begin your study by reviewing the sermon notes, and reading Hebrews, Chapters 11 and 12.

How would you describe your faith compared to any of the people in Hebrews 11? For example, how well do you do in "sincerely seeking" v 6, "obeying" v 8, "sacrificing" v 17, "worshipping" v 21, "suffering for the sake of Christ" v 25?

How is your life different than that of a non-Christian? What would an outsider see as different about you? Is that the same thing Jesus sees?

According to Hebrews 12:1, what might be the "weight that slows (you) down" in running the race God has set before you? This may not be sinful, but, rather, habits, behaviors or attitudes that hold you back. How do these things slow you down in living your life in Christ to the fullest?

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

James 1:22 (NIV)



Bill Bush
Lead Pastor
February 12, 2012

Part 5

Big Idea
The Bible is God's story about a divine Hero in passionate pursuit of His prodigal people!

The New Testament (NT) explains that Jesus is the Messiah who was promised in the Old Testament:

Old Testament	New Testament
Theme: The Messiah is Coming Partially conceals the Messiah's identity. Explains your NEED of Jesus because you cannot live up to the law's requirements.	Theme: Jesus is the Messiah Fully reveals The Messiah's identity Explains how you can KNOW Jesus.

The 27 books of the NT can be divided into 4 sections:

- Gospels
- History | Book of Acts
- Epistles or Letters
- Apocalyptic | Book of Revelation

Gospels | Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

Four accounts that follow Jesus' life, death and resurrection from four different perspectives, written for different audiences.

- Mathew Jesus, The Messiah
- Mark Jesus, The Servant
- Luke Jesus, The Son of Man
- John Jesus, The Son of God

History | Book of Acts

The Book of Acts continues the history of The Gospels and the beginning of the church. It gives the historical basis for The Epistles and gives the historical context for every NT letter, except 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus.

Epistles or Letters

These are 21 Letters written to individuals and churches in the first century. Christianity was new to them and they were anxious to hear and learn how God, through the Holy Spirit, could help them in their relationships and circumstances. They are organized by their predominant themes:

- Christ in You | **Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians**

Christians are different because Jesus lives in them, through the Holy Spirit, which should affect the things they think, say and do.

- You in Christ | **Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon**

Christians belong to Jesus and are part of the Body of Christ, the family of all Christians, the church, and have the privilege and responsibility of caring for and ministering to each other.

- Walking by Faith | **Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2 & 3 John, Jude**

Faith is more than just theory and it translates into power, which equips Christians to handle all the circumstances of life.

Apocalyptic | Book Of Revelation

The last book of the Bible, written in 95 AD by the Apostle John, records his amazing visions while exiled on the Island of Patmos. Revelation starts out as a series of letters to seven churches in present day Turkey, then it proceeds to relate a series of dramatic visions of the end times.

Hebrews 11-12:4

JESUS in every book of The New Testament:

In MATTHEW, He is the Messiah

In MARK, He is the Miracle Worker

In LUKE, He's the Son of Man

In JOHN, He is the Son of God

In ACTS, He is the Shining Light that appears to Saul on the road to Damascus

In ROMANS, He is the One who Justifies

In 1st CORINTHIANS, He is our Resurrection

In 2nd CORINTHIANS, He is our Sin Bearer

In GALATIANS, He is the One who sets us free

In EPHESIANS, He is our Unsearchable Riches

In PHILIPPIANS, He supplies our every need

In COLOSSIANS, He's the Fullness of the Godhead

In 1st and 2nd THESSALONIANS, He is our Soon Coming King

In 1st and 2nd TIMOTHY, He is the Mediator between God and man

In Titus, He is our Blessed Hope

In PHILEMON, He is a Friend that sticks closer than a brother

In HEBREWS, He's the Blood that washes away my sins

In JAMES, He is the Great Physician

In 1st and 2nd PETER, He is the Chief Shepherd

In 1st, 2nd, and 3rd JOHN, HE is Everlasting Love

In JUDE, He is God our Savior

In REVELATION, He is the Lord of Lords and King of Kings, the Alpha and Omega, the Great I AM