

**Welcome to the
Common Ground Café!**



Sunday, March 3, 2024

**Ageless Faith
A Study of Hebrews 11**

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If you like “Hall of Fame” museums, which is your favorite or which one would you most like to visit? Why?

If you like reading biographies or watching biopics, which is your favorite? Why?

Today’s speaker, Dr. Julio Guarneri called Hebrews 11 the “Hall of Faith.”

Read Hebrews 11:1 and 6 and answer the following questions:

- ❖ In the definition and focus of faith in verses 1 and 6, what verbs describe faith?
- ❖ What is the object of these verbs?
- ❖ Is our faith directed toward the future, toward the present, or toward both?
- ❖ Is our faith directed toward God alone, or people as well? Why do you conclude this?
- ❖ Write your own expanded definition of faith as you try to capture the meaning of verse 1.

How does verse three illustrate the author’s understanding of faith?

Why is Abel's sacrifice regarded as better than Cain's (see Genesis 4:1-12)? What do you think the author meant when he said that by faith Abel "still speaks, even though he is dead"? Is there someone from your life whose exemplary faith still speaks to you even though they are dead?

What aspect of faith is demonstrated by Noah in verse 7? (See Genesis 6:5-22; 7:11-12.)

The author of Hebrews gave three examples of faith from Abraham's life. From Hebrews 11, read verses 8-10, then verses 11-12, then verses 17-19. How is faith demonstrated or explained in each of the three examples? What obstacles had to be overcome in each example? What changed for him and/or for his family in each example?

What do you learn about faith from the example of Moses in Hebrews 11:24-28?

Read Hebrews 11:29-38. What great achievements were accomplished as a result of faith? What price was paid?

According to verses 39-40, what came of such faith? What does it mean to you that not all these people of faith met with "success"?

Read Hebrews 10:35-39. What are the connections between these verses and the themes of chapter 11?

Of the people mentioned in Hebrews 11, with whom do you feel you have the most in common? Why? With whom do you have the least in common? Why? Which situation would have been the most difficult for you to face? Why?

How has your life changed as a result of your faith in God? What has your faith cost you? How has your faith affected the people you know?

Close with praise reports and prayer requests

(Most of the questions from today's discussion guide were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Study Groups*.)