



Sermon Discussion Questions

Sunday, March 27, 2011
Live By Faith: Faith or Hope?
Hebrews 11
Mike Moses, Lead Pastor

We talked this morning about things that faith is NOT.

Faith is NOT a force

Faith is NOT a formula

Faith is NOT pure confidence

Give examples of each of these and how people confuse them with faith.

Faith is also NOT hope. What did Mike say this morning about Hope? What is the difference between faith and Hope?

Read Hebrews 11:1

How does the author of Hebrews separate between faith and hope? Give an example from your life that shows the difference between faith and hope.

The promise of God is what bridges the gap from hope to faith. It is God's promises that move us from "hoping" something will happen and having "faith" that it will happen.

What are promises that God has made that helps you to have more than just hope but to act out of faith?

Read Hebrews 11:2-11

Discuss each example given in these passages of examples of people that acted out of faith and not just hope. If you are not familiar with each example, go and read about them as a group in the Old Testament.

Read Hebrews 11:12-16

Many times we think that the promises of God will come to fruition in our lifetime. How did these people live in faith that is not tied to their lifetime?

Mike said this morning that Faith is:

...trust that God is who he says he is and will do what he says he will do.

...trust in the character, person and promises of God.

...always attached to the promises of God.

What are things that God has promised? Talk about as many as you can think of. What are promises of God that you cling to over and over?

What are things you "hope" God will do during your lifetime but you are not promised?

Read Matthew 9:27-30

Read Luke 5:12-13

Talk about the "faith" you see in both examples. How did faith bring healing to these men?

Do you believe there were people that Jesus passed by, that had faith in who He was, yet he did not touch and heal them? Why would their "faith" not heal them?

Did God promise to heal everyones diseases, hurts, brokenness, hard circumstances; while we are here on earth? If no, what has he promised?

Do you know people that died of a disease or something else, yet they were people of great faith? Why didn't their faith keep them from dieing?

If God heals you or does not heal you, what are the promises of God that are true for all?

Read Hebrews 11:36-39

Good things did not always happen to these people of great faith. In fact, it's because of their faith that bad things happened.

How have you confused faith with everything working out well? What are the things going on in your life that are hard, difficult and tough and yet you are living by great faith?

This morning, before Mike preached, we prayed for people that were under lifes storms, people that felt abandoned by God, and people that have just a little faith. We prayed the below prayer for them:

Let them not be afraid but know your love is stronger;

Your love is stronger than their fear.

Let them not be afraid but know your promise is stronger;

Your promise is to always be near.

As a group, pray this prayer over each person. Pray it knowing that our faith must cling to who God is and His promises and not our circumstances.