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## Hebrews 11:1-4

**Topic:** This is one of the most neglected books of the bible. We don't know who the author is, but we do know it was written for the instruction of the temple before 70 A.D. It is to the Jews what the book of Romans is to the Gentiles. Hebrews tells of sacrifices and rituals and exalts the sovereignty of Christ. It tells of Christ's relation to Moses and Abraham and all their people. This is why the Book of Hebrews is so great. The message of Hebrews is this: go on to spiritual maturity. Don't sit back on your laurels; get up and do something for the Lord, spread the word, help someone who doesn't ask but you see the need. Jesus Christ is our mediator to God. If you read only one book of the entire bible, this should be the one.

Chapter 10 is the Warning Chapter, and it is devoted to warning God's people to not go back to their old ways, nor add or take away anything from the New Testament, the New Laws after the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. God will take the life of a mature Christian, the sin of death, who tries to change the ways.

Chapter 11 is the Faith Chapter, and it is full of encouragement, a register of the heroes of the Old Testament. This chapter shows us how to succeed and grow and gain the victory of our faith. The heroes are examples to us, how to battle and have victory at the end of our lives. There is no victory without a battle. Verses 1 & 3 give the definition of faith. Verse 4-32 give examples of faith. Verse 33-38 gives us the price of victory. Verse 39-40 is the reward through victorious faith.

**Heb 11:1-3:** Substance means foundation, so faith is the foundation, and evidence is proof of conviction.

**Genesis 1:1** In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. Created means be made from nothing. This verse is a test of faith. If you don't believe God spoke into existence this universe, then you won't believe anything else in this Bible. This right here separates the faithful from the rest of mankind. Man wants to question God on all the minute details, but we are just supposed to believe, and listen; don't add or take away from His message. God will tell you what He needs to know, not all that you want to know. We can't explain all the details of faith. Faith means you trust God enough to believe His word without question. You believe the unreasonable, the unexplainable. You believe He created the heavens and earth out of nothing. You believe Jesus Christ died for our sins and came back to life and rose to Heaven. If you try to explain all the contents of the bible logically, it won't work. It is not a logical book; it is a spiritual book. How can God be three persons in one? When you're studying the bible and you hit something you can't explain, don't worry about it. Just have faith that it's true and move on. Keep studying. We have only 10% capacity of our brain function because God took away the other 90% because we were too smart and using it for evil purposes. Look what we do with just 10% of our brains! Pollution, corruption, wars...

**Matthew 15:22-28:** Jesus Christ just had a discussion with the Pharisees about how they've twisted and corrupted the laws. Now look what happens: a Canaan gentile woman comes to Jesus Christ and addressed Him as Lord, and calls Him Son of David, which is reserved for special men, and told Him her daughter is possessed with a demon. But Jesus Christ appears to ignore her.

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The disciples couldn't believe He was ignoring her! He was a prophet, priest and king that came to minister to the Jews. But He hadn't come for the Gentiles at this point. That's why He appeared rude at that time. He's the messiah of the Jews, not the Gentiles. But she didn't give up. She had no right to call Him Son of David because she's not a Jew, she's a Gentile. But when she called Him "Lord", which means "Master", then He spoke to her and told her He was there for the Jews only, not anyone else. She said, even dogs get crumbs from the master's table! How brilliant is that?!! Then He told her: "Oh woman, great is thy faith": let your request be granted. She barged in, a Gentile, and received healing for her daughter from Jesus Christ because she has Great Faith. It is because the Jews rejected their messiah that we are saved today. If they had accepted Him then, He would've built His Kingdom then and we Gentiles wouldn't have a chance.

**Hebrews 11:4:** there are 3 steps to achieve victory in faith. Abel is our example of worshipping by faith. Enoch exemplifies walking by faith. Noah demonstrates working by faith. Those are the 3 principles in Christian life. There's no room for rocking in a chair for a mature Christian. Genesis teaches to worship in faith. Leviticus teaches the walk in faith. Deuteronomy teaches to work in faith. You can't send a brand new baby Christian out to witness. Mature Christians must help new Christians grow and mature in Christ; mature Christians must follow these three principles:

## WORSHIP – WALK – WORK FOR CHRIST