

INTRODUCTION

A. CHRIST'S SUPREME EXCELLENCE DEMANDS & ENABLES PERSEVERANCE

(Heb.1-10a & 10b-13; hold firm; 3:6,14; 4:14)

B. NEED ENDURANCE (10:36f; versus quit; 12:3,5; 2Cor.4:1,16; Gal.6:9)

C. FAITH IS THE KEY TO PERSEVERANCE (10:38,39)

1. cognizance, conviction, commitment (see Rom.10:17; 2Tm.3:14f; Jms.2:19)
2. faith: in God's testimonies; in His promises (hope); in His commandments (love; obedience; Jn.14:15)

THE HALL OF FAITH, PART I (Heb.11:1-12)

A. THE CHARACTER OF FAITH (11:1; see 1:3)

1. subjective perception of objective reality (1; see 2Tm.3:14f; see Lk.1:1f; Jn.19:35; 20,21; 2Th.1:10; 1Jn.5:10)
2. a means of perceiving with the mind beyond the physical senses (1,3; see Mt.13:9,16; 1Cor.2:9)
3. the gift of the ability to see invisible things (1,7; see "seer"; 1Sam.9:9; Eph.2:5f; illustration: viruses)

B. THE EVIDENCE AND VERDICT OF FAITH (11:1-5f)

1. the testimony of faith: deeds (11:4f; see Mt.7:16; Eph.2:5-10; Jms.2:14f; Tt.3:14)
2. the testimony to faith: witness (11:2,4,5f; 39; see 10:38)

C. THE CONTENT OF FAITH: THE BEING & DOING OF GOD (11:6; 10:35; see Rom.10:9f)

D. BY FAITH SEEING THE UNSEEN (11:1, 27)

1. faith in God for the unseen past: creation (11:3; see Rom.1:18f,20)
2. faith in God for the unseen future: promises (11:7,4ff; see Rom.4:16-22)

E. FAITH IN GOD FOR THE UNSEEN FUTURE: PROMISES (11:1-16)

1. the promise: the righteous shall live by faith (see 10:38,39)
2. by faith Abel saw the promise of life & offered a better sacrifice (11:4; 10:38a; Gn.4 /Mt.22:32; Hb.12:23)
3. by faith Enoch saw the promise of life & pleased God (11:5; 10:38b; Gen.5)
4. by faith Noah saw the promise of life & built the ark (11:7; Gen.6-9)
5. by faith Abraham, Isaac & Jacob saw the promise of life & followed God (11:8-10; Gn.12-50 /Lk.5:11,28)
6. by faith Sarah saw the promise of life & conceived a child (11:11,12; 10:23 /Gn.15:5; 22:17; 32:12 /1Tm.2:15)
7. summary: by faith the righteous live; trusting God's word by pleasing Him w/result,life (11:1f /10:38,39)

F. EVALUATION OF THESE HEROES OF FAITH (11:13-16)

1. by faith all these saw and greeted the promises of life (11:13a; see Mt.10:12; Dt.32:52; see Jn.8:56; 12:41)
2. by faith all these saw the promise of life and confessed sojourners (11:13; see Lk.9:53)
3. by faith all these saw the promise of life and sought a heavenly home (11:13-16; see 12:1f)
 - a. country: their own fatherland; home (11:14f)
 - b. city: foundations, design-build; prepared (11:10; 16; see 10:11f; 12:22; Rev.21:1f; Ps.87)
 - c. better, heavenly (11:16 (4,35,40) /better; 7:19,22; 8:6; 9:23; 10:34 /heavenly, **6:19f; 9:11f, 24; 10:19f; 12:22**; 2Tm.4:18; see Gen.3:24; Heb.9:1f; 1Kngs.6:23f; Gen.2:8f; Rev.22:1f)
 - d. looking for, seeking, longing (11:10,14,16; see 6; see Mt.7:7f; Phil.3:7f; Heb.12:1f)
 - e. origin is not destiny (11:15; Gen.24:6; see Ps.51:5; Eph.2:1; Col.1:13; see 2Pt.2:22)
 - f. God not ashamed to be their God (11:16; see 6; see 2:11; see Mt.7:7f)

STRIVE FOR THE BETTER COUNTRY! (Heb.11:1-16)

A. BY FAITH, SEE THE PROMISES OF GOD & STRIVE FOR THEM WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT!
(11:1-16; 10:38,39; see Phil.3:7f,20; 12:1f)

B. FAITH IS A GIFT. ASK UNTIL YOU RECEIVE IT! (11:1f; see Eph.2:5f; Lk.11:9f,13; 18:1f)

C. RENOUNCE YOUR EARTHLY CITIZENSHIP, CONFESS YOUR HEAVENLY CITIZENSHIP, AND SOJOURN! (11:13f; see Lk.5:28; 18:28f; Phil.3:7f,20; Col.3:1f; see 1Pt.1:1; 2:11)

D. BELIEVE! HIS TESTIMONIES (past, faith; 11:3; Lk.1:1f); **HIS PROMISES** (future, hope; 11:1f; see Rom.8:23-25); **HIS COMMANDMENTS** (present, love; 11:4f,7,8,17,24f; see Jn.14:15,23)

Brethren, what shall WE DO? (see Acts 2:37f)