

GROWTH GROUPS

March 4, 2012

Hebrews 11:1-16

Conversation Starter –

Pastor Clint used the example of sitting in a chair to demonstrate that faith takes the form of action in many choices we daily take for granted. What other things do we do by faith? Take 5 minutes and see how big a list the group can make.

Understanding –

While last week's passage (Heb. 10:26-39) offered a strong warning against "deliberately sinning" after we have taken the mantle of Christ, this week's passage offers an equally strong exhortation to live by faith even when threatened and we don't know what the outcome will be.

1. While considering Hebrews 11:1 draw a distinction between "blind faith" (*I have faith that I will win the lottery simply because I want to*) and a faith based in evidence. What kind of evidence have we been given in this letter to the Hebrews (*first 10 chapters*) that would call us to put our faith in Jesus?
2. Hebrews 11:1 offers a thesis statement "*Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see*" that is fleshed out in the lives of some Old Testament figures. Choose one of the figures, read about him and talk about how this thesis statement is evidenced in his life. (*Abel – Gen. 4; Enoch – Gen. 5:24; Noah – Gen 6&7; Abraham – Gen. 12, et al.*)
3. Pastor Clint talked about the faith that God commends as a "*putting our lives fully into God's hands*" type of faith as exhibited by Abel. What areas of your life do you need to more fully live by faith as you take some sort of risk; putting your life in God's hands?
4. Hebrews 11:13 says that we are "strangers" in this world if we truly live by faith in Christ. What does this mean? What would this look like if we were rightly exercising faith? Reference 1 Peter 2:9-12 for some thoughts.

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