Faith for The Future

Hebrews 11:1-6

Everyone lives by faith, whether they admit it or not. When you go to the doctor and he gives you a prescription, you take something that you cannot read very well to a pharmacist whom you do not know, he reaches into a drawer and takes out some capsules of many colors, and you don't know the faintest thing about what they contain. He then tells you to take three of these capsules a day, and you go home. You've gone to a doctor who wrote something you couldn't read, to a pharmacist whom you do not know, in a facility that you may be unfamiliar with. He gives you medicine you may never have taken before, and then three times a day, by faith, you swallow it. Folks, that is faith!

Everyone has faith in something or someone. Don't ever tell me you don't live by faith. The materialist has faith in his money. The philosopher has faith in his ideas. Some people have faith in their religion-, but everyone lives by faith of some kind.

This book was written to Jewish believers. It was written in a very difficult time, when many were thinking about backing away from the faith. Persecution was beginning to get stronger, and there was some fear and a lack of faith beginning to creep into the church. In addition, they were beginning to go back to the old way of doing things, instead of living by faith in The Lord Jesus Christ.

They were living in what we call tough times. All of us are acquainted with tough times. Those are times when sickness and disease invade your home and disrupt your lifestyle. Times when you run out of money before you run out of month. Times when you don't know if you're going to make it or not and you want to scream for someone to listen, but you fill like there is no one there to listen or anyone that cares enough to listen. You cry for help, but help doesn't come. You can't enjoy today because you worry about tomorrow. You fill like you are the only one that has any problems. You are not by yourself, there are others around you that are experiencing "TOUGH TIMES" as well.
Matthew 6:34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Each of us has enough to deal with today without trying to take on tomorrow's problems. We all need to learn to live life one day at a time because we all have tough times to face.

When times are tough, we need, "Tough Faith for Tough Times"!!

II Cor. 5:7 "We walk by Faith and not by sight." (KJV)

- **We**
  1. The WE of this verse are the children of God.
  2. Those who have come to Jesus to be saved and forgiven of their sins.
  3. Those who have been washed in the blood of Christ...

- **Walk**
  1. The word WALK is in the present tense, meaning to continue or to keep on walking.
  2. Paul is encouraging us to stay in the path that God has prescribed for us regardless of how difficult it becomes...
  3. The word is used to signify the spiritual activity demanded of those who will live in such a way to please the Lord

This walk is a walk of Faith and not sight. Things are not always as bad as they appear to be. Our lives are not to be controlled by what we see. We look at things from our perspective rather than God's Perspective. We need to take our eyes off the visible and by faith put them on the invisible. We need to quit focusing on the temporary and focus on that which is permanent and eternal. We live our lives based upon what we see in the here and now rather than what God has Revealed to us through His Word. Therefore, when tough times come, we live by fear rather than faith, but when we live our lives based upon what God has revealed to us through His word, then we live by faith and not fear. We need to develop a Tough Faith for Tough Times.
If we are going to Have Faith for The Future, there are three things that we must understand about Faith.

1. We must understand the Nature of Faith (What is faith?)
2. We must understand How to Nurture Faith (How can I strengthen my faith?)
3. We must understand the Necessity of Faith (Why do I need Faith?)

**I. The Nature of Faith** (Heb. 11:1)

11:1 Now faith is the **substance** of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. a setting under (support) assurance -- confidence,

Faith is always linked to hope. Faith is looking at God and trusting him for everything, while hope is looking at the future and trusting God for it.

**Matthew Henry** makes some excellent statements that are well worth our thought: "Faith and hope go together; and the same things that are the object of our hope are the object of our faith.

"It [faith] is a firm persuasion and expectation that God will perform all that He has promised to us in Christ; and this persuasion is so strong that it gives the soul...possession...of those things.

"Believers in the exercise of faith are filled with joy unspeakable and full of glory. Christ dwells in the soul by faith; and the soul is filled with the fullness of God."

The word "substance" (hupostasis PWS: 3839) means the foundation, assurance, title-deed, and guarantee of things hoped for. **Preacher's Outline and Sermon Bible**

**A. Faith Is Confidence in The Foundation That I Am Building My Life On**

When you build a house, you want a solid foundation that will support the house that you are going to build on it.

Faith is having a prop under you something to support you.

When we go through tough times that threaten our future, we need something that will supports us and hold us up. This is what faith does. Faith enable us
to stand strong when times get hard. Faith is what keeps us from falling apart when the world around us is falling apart.

It is being confident that When everything is out of control, God is still in control.

Faith is the confidence, the assurance, or the foundation of things hoped for. The word hope doesn't mean something that you wished for and are uncertain that it will happen. Hope is anticipating that what God has promised, will happen.

There are many people in this world living without any hope. They are not certain of their salvation. They have never experienced the saving power of God in their lives. They cannot say for certain that if they die, they will go to heaven. Can you say for a certainty that if you die right now that you will go to heaven? do you have that confidence, that assurance or that support.

Assurance also means title deed. Therefore, Faith is the actual possession of something that is real. The person who holds or owns the title-deed to a property possesses the property. It is his already. From God's perspective, we already possess His promises; He has already seated us in the heavenlies, and we already possess eternal life. It is not that we are going to possess it; we already possess it. Holding the title-deed to property and possessing something is more than assurance and conviction. It is possessing reality, holding something that is substantial and real. (PSOB)

**B. Faith Is the Conviction That Even Though I Can't See the Outcome, My Future Is as Sure as The Foundation That I Am Building On**

That is if you are building on the right foundation.

The evidence of things not seen. (Heb. 11:1b)

The word "evidence" (elegchos) means conviction.

Faith is described as an act, an act of the mind and heart that leads to obedience. That is, our heart and mind believe something, and we have assurance and conviction that it is true therefore we move forward in obedience.
This word evidence or conviction takes Faith a step further than mere confidence about God. It is a confidence that leads to convictions that govern and control our lives. Faith will affect our behavior.

D. Faith is not merely giving assent to truth, but it is the kind of confidence and conviction that absolutely consumes and controls every aspect and act of our lives.

II. The Nurture of Faith (Romans 10:17)

So, then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Faith must be nurtured, it must be fed. What we need to do is starve our doubts and fears and nurture our faith by feasting upon the word of God.

Faith is not a blind leap into the dark unknown ... it is just the opposite. Faith is stepping out on the known and revealed word of God.

A. To Nurture Our Faith We Must Hear the Word Of God

Hearing involves Listening to the Word of God, Understanding the Word of God and Obeying the Word Of God. When you listen to and understand the word of God then you will want to obey it.

B. To Nurture Our Faith We Must Honor the Word Of God. (Give God's Word Priority in Our Lives)

Psalm 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

C. To Nurture Our Faith We Must Hold/Cling to The Word of God.

2 Timothy 1:13 Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

III. The Necessity of Faith (Why I need Faith)

Hebrews 11:3 & 6
A. Faith is Necessary to understand the existence of the world.

Hebrews 11:3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

Genesis 1: You will read that In the Beginning God Created the heaven and the earth. Then throughout the remainder of the chapter you will read, "And God Said ", Whatever God said happened.

B. Faith is Necessary to Understand the Existence of God.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God, In the first chapter and first verse of the bible we are introduced to God. No explanation as to God's Existence. God is eternal, He has no beginning or ending. He has always been and will always be.

The bible introduces us to God and then calls us to believe in Him.

Conclusion: This morning maybe you are not sure of your salvation, maybe you are not sure if you died today that you would go to heaven, God wants to give you that assurance and confidence this morning. God wants you to know that through faith in the Lord Jesus you have future even when time are tough. God wants you to have A Tough Faith for Tough Times.