



August 7, 2022  
**Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16**  
“Living On God’s Promise”

**1Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. 2This is what the ancients were commended for.**

**3By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.**

...

**8By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. 9By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. 10For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. 11And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. 12And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.**

**13All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. 14People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. 15If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. 16Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.**

Hebrews 11 gives examples of men and women who heard God’s promises and knew for certain that they would come true. Their faith shaped their lives. It determined how they dealt with their problems, how they obeyed God’s commands, and how they faced death. That’s LIVING ON GOD’S PROMISE.

- 1. Let’s try to describe faith using Hebrews 11 as our guide. What are some things we want to include in our description?
- 2. Some people say faith is blind trust with no evidence whatsoever. If that were the case, then we should all trust Allah and Buddah and Joseph Smith (the founder of the Mormon church.) In what ways is Hebrews 11-style faith similar to blind trust, and in what ways is it different?

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DIFFERENT

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- 4. Imagine you’re Abraham (or Sarah) as you move to an unknown land. Why would Hebrews 11-style faith be helpful to you?
- 5. Living as an immigrant or refugee (STRANGER in Hebrews 11) is different from living in your home country. Name 5 differences.
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
  - e.
- 6. 1 Peter 1:1 says all believers are sort of like immigrants. What parts of your experience on earth is similar to the experience of a STRNAGER? Which verses in Hebrews 11 brings you comfort about that?
- 7. What might you do when you are experiencing a crisis of faith?