

Heartland Christian Center
www.heartlandchristiancenter.com
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Principles for Spiritual Life (Part Five)

The Fifth principle: **Faith** releases God's Power.

Faith refers to our personal **response** to God.

"That without faith it is impossible to please God." Hebrews 11:6

"The just shall live by faith." Romans 1:17

I. Faith Defined

*"Who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. Women received back their dead, raised to life again."
(Hebrews 11:33-35A)*

V. 39 *"These were all commended for their faith."*

A. Three factors emerge.

1. What they did, they did by **faith**.
2. Living by faith often meant moving against the prevailing tide of **public** opinion.
3. The life of faith should not be **uncommon**.

"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."

*"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."
Hebrews 11:1*

1. "Substance" = title deed/confident assurance
2. "Evidence" = legal proof in a courtroom
3. Living by faith requires a measure of holy discontent.
4. Faith always deals with things "hoped for."

B. Three words:

1. Faith believes what others do not **believe**.
2. Faith **sees** what others do not see.

3. Faith **does** what others do not do.

C. Faith is **outrageous** trust in God.

II. Faith illustrated

“By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king’s anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.” Hebrews 11:24-27

- A. “Faith **sees** the invisible,
- B. **believes** the incredible,
- C. **receives** the impossible.”

III. Faith applied

- A. Faith is not a feeling but a conscious choice to believe what God has said.
 - 1. Faith chooses, then acts, and then the **feelings** follow.
- B. Faith **acts** even in the face of doubt and opposition.
 - 1. Faith is “belief plus unbelief and **acting** on the belief.
- C. Faith **sees** what others do not see.
 - 1. God says, “**Believing** is seeing.”

IV. Three conclusions about those who live by faith.

- 1. They will **see** great triumphs and **endure** great trials.
- 2. They will be **misunderstood** by the world.
- 3. They will be glad they did what they did in the **end**.