

# Hebrews 11:1-12:3.

## Keeping the Faith.

It's easy to say that you have faith... in air-bags, seat-belts, parachutes, banks, etc. But when have you *really* had to put faith into action? Was your faith justified?

### Read Hebrews 11:1-16.

1. Verse 11:1 speaks of faith as “the conviction of things not seen.” What “things” do the readers of Hebrews need to maintain their conviction of?
2. What things help you have faith in God even though you haven't ever seen him?
3. What does verse 2 show pleased God a long time ago? Do you think we please God the same way today?
4. The word 'faith' is often used in our culture to mean “religious preference”. How does (or doesn't) that definition fit with the faith of Abel, Enoch, Noah and Abraham? (See, for instance, 11:11)
5. How does the promise of a heavenly country help us to keep our faith, even when we don't see our hopes fulfilled immediately (vs. 13-16)?

### Read James 2:18-19.

6. How are those verses in James reflected in Hebrews 11?

### Read Hebrews 11:32-40.

7. What do these verses teach us about difficulty and persecution?
8. What did these heroes of the faith attain (or not)? Why? (v. 39-40)

### Read Hebrews 12:1-3.

9. What does the writer say we need to do, to run with perseverance?
10. Why does living as a Christian take perseverance?
11. Verse 2 calls Jesus the “author and perfecter” of our faith. Why is He different to all the other heroes of chapter 11?
12. How would “considering Jesus” (verse 3) help us to “not lose heart”?

### Give thanks and pray.

Thank God for Jesus, our savior. Pray that we would please God through our faith, and in the things we do *because of* our faith. Pray for *focus*, that we would look to Jesus and throw off everything that will slow us down.