Good Morning to all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Today we look into Hebrews chapter 11, the faith chapter! So many topics are crammed into this chapter it is hard to know where to start. We shall start with faith.

It is the assurance of things that are our Hope. Things that we have not yet seen, yet we now know are true. It is by this faith that our elders (men of old) gained a witness from God that He approved of them. He will then go on to list a rather long list of those that we can look to for examples of lives that reflect a faith that both saved them and changed them. Their faith was an active faith which can be seen in their rather imperfect lives. One thing that is clear about the Old Testament is that it shows people how there really are.

What do we do with the term faith? It is often defined quite wrongly. The worst is to define it so those who do not have it think that they do. The word faith and the word for believe are the same. We translate them differently into English to fit our language.

In Christianity to have faith is to believe, but it is to believe the right thing. And it is to believe so as to make a difference. We call that accepting Christ. Because anyone can believe that Jesus lived, performed miracles, died for us, even rose again, but not want that salvation. That is what Adam and Eve did. That is what the Sanhedrin did in Matt. 28:11-12 when they knew of Jesus resurrection and chose to try and hide it. Faith means that you believe that Jesus did all He did for you - and that you cannot live without it. It also means that you believe that Faith changed you.

This is not “blind faith.” Blind faith is believing even though there is no evidence. Usually the accusation against Christians as having blind faith means that we believe in the face of contradictory evidence.

The point of the author here in chapter 11 is that there is plenty of evidence for the reliability of faith. We see that in the lives of all these people. They believed and they lived their faith. They were real people with real problems just like the early believers to whom the author was writing. This is for the audience of this writer who were both Holy Brethren and brethren, Jews sitting on the fence. It showed them, “See, all your OT heroes believed in just this way!” This chapter is for us to remember a faith that works today just as it worked in all these people.

We believe, not because we have seen Jesus, the cross and the resurrection, but because it is truth. We believe because we can see the faith of all the believers who have come before us. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing we have life in his name (John 20:31).

In Christ Pastor EA