

## Enduring Faith - Part 1

### This Chapter is Expository in Form but Parenthetical in Function:

- **Chapter 10** ended with a call for us to have an enduring faith.
  - **10:36a** For you have need of endurance
  - **10:38** but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.”
  - **10:39** But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.
- **Chapter 11** provides examples of righteous ones who went before us and by faith endured.
  - **11:13a** These all died in faith...
- **Chapter 12** begins with a renewed call for us to have an enduring faith.
  - **Hebrews 12:1b – 2a** let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith

### Stylistic Repetition of “Faith”

- From **10:38** to **12:2** the Greek word for faith, *pistis* occurs 27 times
- **Anaphora**: the rhetorical repetition of a key word or words at the beginning of successive clauses to give unity, rhythm, and solemnity to a discourse.

### Verse 1 – 3 – What is faith? And what does it cause us to see and understand?

- **Assurance (*hypostasis*)**: the ground, the substance, the substructure
  - The Greek word literally means “that which stands under.”
- **Conviction (*elegchos*)**: proof, especially by evidence and testing

**Romans 10:17** So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

**The Universe was created by the Word of God**: the Bible does *not* say that God created the universe out of nothing (*ex nihilo*), but it also didn’t come from some pre-existing primordial substance.

- But the *visible* universe was made by the word of the *invisible* God.

**Genesis 1:1** In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

- Faith in God and the Word he speaks gives us conviction and assurance to inform our view of the present, what is in the past, and what lies ahead.
  - And it extends to my confidence in how the universe came into being,
    - as well as how it will end.

### Verse 4 – Abel, and an Offering by Faith

#### **Genesis 4:3 – 4, 10**

**3** In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground,  
**4** and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering,

**10** And the LORD said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground.

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### Verses 5 and 6 – Enoch, and a Walk of Faith

#### **Genesis 5:21 – 24**

**21** When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered Methuselah.

**22** Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters.

**23** Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years.

**24** Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.

- **Was taken up** and **taken** (*metatithēmi*) transferred, carried, transported
  - Not indicating that this man never died, but that God moved him elsewhere so that he wouldn't be killed.

#### **Jude 14 – 15**

**14** It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones,

**15** to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”

- **He rewards those who seek him**: in the present tense in the Greek, “those who are seeking after Him”

### Verse 7 - Noah, and a Work of Faith

#### **James 2:17 - 20**

**17** So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

**18** But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

**19** You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!

**20** Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?

**2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 2:5** if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly