

Faith's Next-door Neighbors Hebrews 11:6

Hall of Faith Hb 11

No one there because of wealth, heritage, etc

What can faith do?

Verse 33-35... and more like pay the rent when you are low, lower your temp when you have fever, employ you when unemployed, still you in the loss of a loved one

Faith...it is the very matter that leads a soul to Christ. I am happy to boast Christianity is the only one of the world's religions that has a faith-based salvation.

Do we leave faith at the altar?

2Co 5:7 (*For we walk by faith, not by sight:*)

But, our faith sometimes wavers: Abraham handmaid, Moses smote rock, children Israel said "you brought us into this wilderness to starve us. You can't feed this many."

In Psalm 27 we see how quickly faith can be shaken. Our faith can be challenged on the spur of a moment. In a single verse, David moved from the mountain of faith to the valley of fear.

Faith is needed to please God. Yet, next door to faith and across the street, there are neighbors that are not friends to faith.

Fear (lives next door on the north side)

Fear is not God's plan for the life of a child of God. 2 Ti 1:7 *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

1Jn 4:18 *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.*

Fear is not God's design for your life. Fear can paralyze you. Fear can hold you hostage. Medical specialists tell that if enough fear comes to one's life, it can be worse than physical sickness.

Faith says you can- fear says I am afraid to.

Faith says do it- fear says I am afraid folk will make fun, fear I won't do well, fear I will not finish the task, and I will make a mistake.

Faith says move- fear says I am paralyzed.

Faith says go- fear says you're outnumbered

Example: Elijah versus prophets of Baal (450) and prophets of groves (400). Great victory. I Kings 18. Yet, in chapter 19, Elijah lies paralyzed under a juniper tree.

Example: the army of Israel was paralyzed by fear of one man, Goliath. I Samuel

Fear is not a good neighbor to faith.

Doubt (lives next door on south side)

“We just can't see our way clear at this time. Maybe next year we will have more in the bank.” “The numbers just don't add up.”

That was not a problem for Gideon who started with 32,000 and God took away 31,700 leaving 300. Now, where is Gideon's faith?

Example 10 of 12 spies:

Twelve spies doubted the ability of God Almighty to give to the people the very land he had promised them. Num 13:31-33 *But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we. Num 13:32 And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature. Num 13:33 And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.*

Example Israel in wilderness:

Ps 78:18-19 *And they tempted God in their heart by asking meat for their lust. 19 Yea, they spake against God; they said, **Can God** furnish a table in the wilderness? Can God save my outlaw son? Can God meet my financial needs? Can God heal my sick husband? Can God put my marriage back together? Quail fell 3 feet upon the land.*

Doubt does not make a good neighbor for faith.

Flesh (across the street)

“I got this.” No, God has got this. “I’m on it.” No, God better be on it. “I’m all over it. No, God better be all over it.”

Phil 4:13 *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

Several children live in the flesh household:

* Over confident in the flesh: Example: Army of Israel. Battle of Jericho, then battle of Ai.

* False confidence in the flesh: “I have a good education. I don’t need God in this situation. I read a book.” “I have a good experience. Step back, God, and watch me go to work.” Example: Peter. Brag on stay with Lord and wound up standing outside to city weeping as a child.

* Bad mood in the flesh: *Example* Speak to the rock. Struck with rod. Angry at the people and took his anger out on the Lord’s work.

Impatience (lives at the end of the cul-de-sac)

I could do without this neighbor for sure.

I can stand on the front porch of faith and hear from neighbor impatience such things as: “God, where are you?” “God, are you still there?” “God, are you still able?” “God, have you forgotten me? Do you know who I am?”

Example

Abraham had many promises. A great nation was to arise from his loins. One day, he began to consider his age. “Lord, I am 88 years old and no seed.” “Lord, I do not know how much longer I will be able to fulfill the role of a father.” “Further, God, my wife Sarah, she is 78 and likely it is too late for her womb to bring forth.” So, he concocted a scheme to help God out. O! impatient Abraham did the unthinkable. He went into his wife’s handmaid and conception brought forth a curse to Abraham. Just as much as Abraham’s seed Jesus Christ had blessed mankind, Abraham’s seed has been a curse.

Faith lives in a bad neighborhood; always bothered by