

Faith BEYOND Belief

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

5.5.19 • CRAIG REES

BOTTOM LINE | Faith is confidence in the unseen God and His promises, producing actions that guarantee victory.

KEY VERSES | Hebrews 10:32-39; 11:1-3, 6, 39; Proverbs 1:23

1. What was your major takeaway from this lesson?
2. Faith is substantive. The underlying basis for faith and the foundation for faith is God's presence and character. How has God shown himself to be faithful to you over the last week?
3. Rabbi Simlai, in the third century, noted that Moses gave 365 prohibitions and 248 positive commands. David, in Psalm 15, reduced them to eleven: Isaiah, in 33:14-15 made them six, Micah 6:8 binds them into three, and Habakkuk manages to reduce them all to one: "The just shall live by faith." What do you understand by Habakkuk's summary?
4. Faith is based on the belief that the physical reality we see is subservient to the unseen spiritual reality we don't. In what areas of your life is it easier for you to believe in what you see than in the promises of God for you that you don't yet see? How do you deal with those temptations?
5. How is living by faith different from both having faith and having proof?
6. We've heard, even this week, about believers in China and India undergoing severe persecution as governments clamp down on Christians. With Hebrews 10:32-39 in mind, what lessons can we learn from these believers' unwillingness to 'throw away their confidence'?
7. Living by faith does not guarantee that we will always live successfully. It assures us that we can always live victoriously. What does victorious Christian living look like for you right now?
8. A reading of Hebrews 11:39 and 11:6 reveal faith itself to be a victory. None of the heroes of chapter 11 received what was promised yet they 'won' God's commendation. Whereas in sport we are rewarded when we finish, it seems that with God we are commended when we begin. What do you need to begin right now?