

# Is Your FAITH Living, Busy, Active, Mighty?

Text: Hebrews 11:17-31; 12:1-3 NAS 2020

**Introduction:** Dear friends: We hear a lot about **FAITH**, but what is it? This is the Bible definition: “...faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (Heb. 11:1). In other words, **FAITH IS BELIEVING WITHOUT SEEING!**

But let's be careful – ***some faith SAVES, some does NOT:***

- These Kinds Do NOT Save:
  - **Intellectual Assent:** A person agrees in his mind *but does NOT believe in his heart.*
  - **Temporal Faith:** A person believes for a while, *but his faith is eventually destroyed by the devil, the world, and/or his own sinful nature.*
- These Words Help Us Understand Saving Faith:
  - **KAT:** Saving faith has three essential ingredients: Knowledge, Agreement, and Trust (in Jesus).
  - **FAITH:** Make a word from each letter – **F**orsaking **A**ll (all trust in self) **I** Trust **H**im (Jesus for eternal life).

**503 years ago** (in 1522), Rev. Dr. Martin Luther wrote these words as part of his preface to Paul's letter to the Romans: **“Faith... is a divine work in us which changes us and makes us to be born anew of God, John 1[:12-13]. It kills the old Adam and makes us altogether different men, in heart and spirit**

and **mind** and **powers**; and it brings with it the Holy Spirit. O it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. It is impossible for it not to be doing good works [continually].”

In last week’s epistle reading (Hebrews 11:1-16), the phrase, “By faith” appeared 7 times; in this sermon, 11 more times. In each case, people who believed in the coming Messiah expressed their faith by **saying** or **doing** incredible things.

1. <sup>17</sup> **By faith Abraham, when he was tested** [Gen. 22-10], **offered up Isaac** [as a burnt offering], and **[Abraham] who had received the promises was offering up his only son;** <sup>18</sup> **it was [Isaac] to whom it was said, “THROUGH ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS SHALL BE NAMED.”** <sup>19</sup> **[Abraham] considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead, from which he also received [Isaac] back as a type.** // Abraham’s faith kept him moving forward to offer his only son – *until the LORD told him to stop! Isaac’s near sacrifice pointed ahead to Jesus’ complete sacrifice for our sins!*
2. <sup>20</sup> **By faith Isaac blessed Jacob** [Gen. 27:27-29] **and Esau, even regarding things to come.** // Isaac gave the greater blessing to **Jacob** – the second-born, *because the LORD planned to bring the Messiah through Jacob.*
3. <sup>21</sup> **By faith Jacob, as he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph** [Gen. 48:1-20], **and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.** // Jacob, *as commanded by the LORD*, blessed Joseph’s first two sons, *Ephraim and Manasseh*, as his own. 300 years later, *their descendants received a portion of land when Canaan was conquered and divided.*
4. <sup>22</sup> **By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the exodus of the sons of Israel** [Gen. 15:13; 50:24], **and gave orders concerning his bones.** // Joseph believed the LORD about the coming enslavement, exodus, & Messiah!

5. <sup>23</sup> **By faith Moses**, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child [Ex. 2:2]; and they were not afraid of the king's edict [Ex. 1:16]. // Pharaoh commanded that all newborn boys be put to death, **but** Moses' parents expressed their Messianic faith by keeping him alive!
6. <sup>24</sup> **By faith Moses**, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter [Ex. 2:10], <sup>25</sup> choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the temporary pleasures of sin, <sup>26</sup> considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward. // Moses, by faith, gave up great **visible** riches because he believed in THE GREATER **INVISIBLE** RICHES yet to come. Today, many are choosing the **temporary pleasures of sin** over THE **ETERNAL RICHES OF GOD IN CHRIST**. **Let's not!!**
7. <sup>27</sup> **By faith [Moses]** left Egypt [Ex. 2:15], not fearing the wrath of the king; for he persevered, as though seeing Him who is unseen. // By faith Moses rightly feared / trusted in the LORD. **IT IS BEST FOR US TO DO THE SAME!**
8. <sup>28</sup> **By faith [Moses]** kept the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood [Ex. 12:1-13], so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch them. // The LORD decreed that all firstborn males in Egypt would die – unless they put lamb blood on their doorframes. Moses believed, did it, and encouraged the other Israelites to do the same!
9. <sup>29</sup> **By faith [the Israelites]** passed through the Red Sea as through dry land [Ex. 14:22-29]; and the Egyptians, when they attempted it, were drowned. // When the Israelites were being pursued by Pharaoh's army, they – **by faith** – stepped between the walls of water to safety.

10. <sup>30</sup> **By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after the Israelites had marched around them for seven days** [Joshua 6:20]. // When tested by logic, *the ways of the LORD seem foolish; nevertheless, the Israelites **by faith** obeyed and the LORD and He gave them total victory over Jericho!*
11. <sup>31</sup> **By faith the prostitute Rahab did not perish along with those who were disobedient** [Joshua 6:23], **after she had welcomed the spies in peace.** ... // Rahab, of Jericho, believed in the LORD, so she ♦risked her life, ♦hid the Israelite spies, and ♦was spared, along with her family!
12. <sup>12:1</sup> **Therefore, since we also have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us** [that is, so many great examples of faith], **let's rid ourselves of every obstacle** [weight (ankle weight)] **and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let's run with endurance the** [marathon] **race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking only at Jesus** [like Peter walking on the water], **the originator** [opening the one way] **and perfecter** [finisher] **of the faith** [by the Spirit He poured out], **who for the joy** [of redeeming mankind] **set before Him endured the cross, despising** [thinking little of] **the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.** // **Jesus faced the forces of evil and won!**  
Now, by grace through faith, *we are sharing in His victory!*

**Let Us Pray:** Dear HS! Keep us trusting in Jesus' alone for eternal life and cause our **FAITH** to keep showing itself as ♦living, ♦busy, ♦mighty, and ♦active in every circumstance!!!!

**Website:** [www.BLC7500.com](http://www.BLC7500.com); **YouTube** and **Podcast:** "Benefit from the Bible"  
**Facebook:** "Bethlehem Parma" / **Pastor:** [RevRLGreen@aol.com](mailto:RevRLGreen@aol.com); 440-292-5915  
7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134 / 440-845-2230