

WITNESSES OF THE FAITH



“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.” ~ Hebrews 12:1-2a

PURPOSE

To understand faith and study the “witnesses of faith” in Hebrews 11.

LEARNING

1. How would you describe faith?

2. How does the dictionary define faith?

3. What is true faith according to the Heidelberg Catechism Lord’s Day 7, Question and Answer 21?

4. Take a few minutes to read Hebrews 10:19 through Hebrews 12:2.

5. What is faith according to Hebrews 11:1?

6. What is the difference between faith and hope?

7. Who is the author of our faith? (See Hebrews 12:2)

8. Who was Hebrews 11 written for? Use Hebrews 10:32-34 to guide your answer.

9. What did these Christians need? (See Hebrews 10:23, 10:36 and 12:1)

10. The author of Hebrews lists several individuals by name who were witnesses of this faith of which we speak. List them.

1		9	
2		10	
3		11	
4		12	
5		13	
6		14	
7		15	
8		16	

11. Did these witnesses of faith receive what God had promised? (See verses 13-16 and 39-40)

12. We can see the fulfilment of the Old Testament promises made to these saints in the New Testament. What do we yet wait in faith for?

13. What were these saints given? Fame? Fortune? Or something better? (See Hebrews 11:2)

14. Are all 'heroes' of the faith victorious? (See Hebrews 11: 35-38)

15. These individuals were not perfect, moral people. It is important to note that true faith is exercised by sinners through the saving work of Christ. Look up the two examples of sin listed below and write down the sin mentioned in the passage.

a) Gideon (Judges 8:22-28)

b) Sarah (Genesis 18:11-12)

16. Abraham is given a large section in Hebrews 11. What four acts of faith are listed in respect to Abraham? (See verses 8-12 and 17-19)

1	
2	

3	
4	

17. The cloud of witnesses from this chapter can be an example to us and inspire us, but our principal encouragement is found in Christ. He gives us faith. He “endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” How can we find comfort in this?

APPLICATION

1. Choose one witness of the faith from Learning #8. Write a paragraph about this individual. Be sure to include the Old Testament text(s) that speak of this person, a brief account of their life, and the act of faith listed for this saint in Hebrews 11.

COUNSELOR SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____