



March 19 – Faith - The Best Way To Live

**Listen to the March 19 sermon online if you have not yet heard it. Read aloud
Hebrews 10:39 – 11:40**

Hebrews 10:39-11:1

³⁹ But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved. Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Think of a time when your 5 senses deceived you into believing something was true that really wasn't. Or perhaps when you bought into some news that seemed so legitimate, but turned out to be a clever hoax. On the flip side of this, can you think of when you trusted that something actually existed or truly happened that you could not prove, and eventually your "faith" proved to be correct?

Hebrews 11

⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

A "leap of faith" is defined as stepping off into a situation when the way ahead isn't clear – trusting that something is true when the tangible proof for it isn't obvious.

What times in your life have you taken a step of faith when you were uncertain as to the outcome of your action? Have you had that experience as a follower of Christ, taking some action you knew He would approve of, but it seemed a little crazy at the time? How did that play out?

Hebrews 11

¹⁶ Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

How much time do you spend thinking about going to Heaven someday? What about it seems most appealing to you? Who are the people you most look forward to seeing in Heaven someday?

In verses 32-34, we read how faith brought dramatic good results to people who put their very lives on the line because of their faith. Even today, Chick-fil-A and Hobby Lobby both prosper as they close on Sunday for worship. But in verses 35-38, we see that some suffered severe consequences as they refused to deny their faith. Sometimes walking by faith can make life hard, and perhaps you have experienced that yourself. What answer do we give someone who says, "How can you hang on to your hopes and dreams, when following God doesn't seem to help you much here on earth?" Perhaps that is a question you ask yourself sometimes.

Hebrews 11

³⁹ These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, ⁴⁰ since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

Does holding out for Heaven feel like a big leap of faith to you? Why or why not? What are the anchors in your mind that cause you to believe in this intangible reward of Heaven that is off in your future somewhere?