

Eyes of Faith

Hebrews 11:1-6

Over the next few weeks we will be talking about the subject of faith.

Actually we will be talking about it for the next few years and we will be doing so for a variety of reasons.

One of the reasons will be talking about faith relates to how our faith in the Lord plays out during our capital campaign for our new building.

Yesterday I had the chance, along with several others to help a couple in our church move to a new home.

At the end of the time, a discussion took place about faith.

Several stories were shared about things that have happened to people that require great faith.

People seeing healings take place.

Yet with all that some of these people saw, some have seen their walk with God diminish.

They just don't spend time with the Lord as you might think after being healed from terrible sickness.

During this discussion, the subject of faith came up.

I believe that the church in America is lacking in faith.

We simply doubt that God can do anything.

There is too much pessimism in the church in America.

There is too much nay-saying that takes place within the church.

Why is this?

We are beginning to enter into one of the most important times in the life of our church.

We will be starting our capital campaign to build our new building and this is going to take great faith to see it happen. It is going to take God to do this.

But there is some good news – God wants to use us working together to accomplish it.

I believe that we are going to see God do a great work in the next few weeks, months, and years as we move forward with our relocation process.

I can't wait to see what the Lord is going to do.

But there are a few things we don't need as we move forward – doubt, pessimism, negativity.

Why?

When we doubt we show that we don't trust.

When we are pessimistic we believe in the worst case scenario of a given situation.

We basically believe that bad will triumph over good.

Is God good?

Will bad or evil triumph over God?

When we are negative, we often reveal a bitter spirit that has taken hold of our lives.

Negativity is a sign of a faith that is lacking.

Negativity is the sign of a critical spirit.

Negativity will destroy, often times on purpose.

Christians are not called to be negative people.

I think we spend too much time saying what we are against instead of saying who we are for.

As Christians, we need to get rid of the doubt, pessimism, and negativity from our lives.

We need to replace these things with faith in a great, powerful, loving, and forgiving God.

Faith is extremely important.

What is faith?

We talked a little bit about this last Sunday night.

Faith is a provision against doubt.

It is a gift from God so we don't doubt.

But what does our passage say that faith is?

Being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Faith is knowing that God has said something and He is able to do it.

It is knowing that He is reliable and faithful.

Faith says, "Lord, I can't see what you are doing or where I am going but I am going to trust You."

We can have faith in God because of what He has done.

What has He done?

The list is long but let's start at the beginning.

God created heaven and earth.

Vs 2 – God created the universe by His command.

What we see came into existence because God said so.

How about salvation?

God saw our sinful state and He provided Jesus to pay for mankind's sins so that "whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life."

And it is by grace through faith that we are saved for heaven.

We trust God to save us.

We also trust God to lead us through our relocation.

We trust for Him to provide the resources we need – physically with a new building and monetarily with the means to pay for it.

We need to have faith that He can do this.

Abel and Enoch

In this chapter, God gives example after example of people who lived by faith.

He starts with Abel.

We know that Abel and his brother Cain were the sons of Adam and Eve.

But something happened, Cain killed Abel over a sacrifice.

Abel was faithful to God by presenting the proper sacrifice and Cain wasn't.

Cain killed Abel out of jealousy.

But Abel was commended as being righteous because he knew to bring the proper sacrifice to the Lord – in faith.

Next the writer moves to Enoch.

What does it say about Enoch?

He pleased God so much that he didn't die.

We can read about Enoch in Genesis 5.

In Genesis 5 we can read that Enoch walked with God all his life.

Enoch please God by living for and walking with Him – in faith.

These 2 men were commended for their faith.

What would we be commended for in our lives?

Would we be commended for our righteousness?

Would we be commended for pleasing God.

Remember, without faith it is impossible to please God.

Vs – 6

We need to come to God, believe that He exists, and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.

If we are going to have success in our relocation, it is going to take great faith.

It is going to take eyes of faith to see what God will do.