

WORD

WITH MR BEN SOH

HOW TO HEAR AND OBEY GOD'S
VOICE AS A FAMILY

Hebrews 11 :1-16



HEBREWS 11: 1-16 (NIV)

¹ Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. ² This is what the ancients were commended for.

³ By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

⁴ By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead.

HEBREWS 11: 1-16 (NIV)

⁵ By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death: “He could not be found, because God had taken him away.” For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. 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.

⁷ By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.

HEBREWS 11: 1-16 (NIV)

⁸ By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. ⁹ By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise.

HEBREWS 11: 1-16 (NIV)

¹² And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

¹³ All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. ¹⁴ People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own.

HEBREWS 11: 1-16 (NIV)

¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. 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.

“Without faith it is impossible to please God”

Faith - that He speaks, we can hear, and be guided by His voice

The primary and most dynamic way God reveals Himself is through His Holy Spirit.

Christian faith: rationalizing as we strive to live according to a set of values, or a living two-way relationship?

Identity and knowledge of His love formed through God’s voice

Hearing God’s voice is natural for every believer, yet also requires practice and perseverance.



“But what exactly is faith?”



v1 “Faith is the confidence...and assurance of what we do not see”

Confidence - ***pistis***: fidelity, faithfulness, sense of firmly holding onto something

Assurance - ***hypostasis***: making what is abstract into concrete. For eg. how we apply spiritual principles in daily life.

Faith is allowing God, rather than society and our fears, to define our reality and how we order our life’s priorities.

What are the barriers to faith?

Ps 86 “ Give me an undivided heart...”

Ability to hear from God is linked to our willingness to surrender.

Are our priorities God’s priorities?

Or do we filter out what we willing to hear from God?

Comparing the cost of obedience versus the cost of disobedience.

The key is how we view God’s character.



Our response to the world today



A post-Covid world defined by inequality and volatility.

Income inequality, regional wars, climate change, food insecurity, refugee crisis, inflation...

Top 10% (10,000) earns 55% of world income, bottom 50% (325) less than 8%.

82 million refugees - size of Germany

Unequal impact on the poor and needy of the world. Inconvenience vs catastrophe.

Opportunity and Crisis - 危机

Temptation to retreat into a cocoon when the world is desperate for hope and a messiah.

“To know God and make Him known” - let us not only live half the Christian life.

The world has changed, but our call to witness has not. Faith must translate to action, opposite is fear and inaction.

Ironically, we hear with most clarity when we are outside our comfort zone.

Getting off the cruise ship and into the world

As a family, invest in the eternal not temporal.

