

Faith Meets Endurance
Response Guide
Hebrews 11:1-12:2
Bethany Assembly of God
March 29, 2020

- Start by reading Hebrews 11.
- According to Hebrews 11:1, what is faith?
- Are Christians the only people who exhibit faith as described in Hebrews 11:1?
- When you have doubts about your faith, why is it also important to doubt your doubts?
- What are some distinguishing marks of the Christian faith?

You can have faith that endures.

1. You should seek to please God. (Heb. 11:4-7)

- Why is it impossible to please God without faith?
- How does seeking God reveal the health of your faith?
- Is your faith really more about well wishing, positive vibes, and feeling good, or is it faith that trusts the goodness of God and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him?

2. You should live like an exile. (Heb. 11:8-26)

- How does the imagery of exile describe the life of a Christian in this world?

- “The Christian says, ‘Creatures are not born with desires unless satisfaction for those desires exists. A baby feels hunger: well, there is such a thing as food. A duckling wants to swim: well, there is such a thing as water. Men feel sexual desire: well, there is such a thing as sex. If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world. If none of my earthly pleasures satisfy it, that does not prove that the universe is a fraud. Probably earthly pleasures were never meant to satisfy it, but only to arouse it, to suggest the real thing. If that is so, I must take care, on the one hand, never to despise, or to be unthankful for, these earthly blessings, and on the other, never to mistake them for the something else of which they are only a kind of copy, or echo, or mirage. I must keep alive in myself the desire for my true country, which I shall not find till after death; I must never let it get snowed under or turned aside; I must make it the main object of life to press on to that country and to help others to do the same.’” - C. S. Lewis
- Do you desire something beyond what you've found in the world? Do you think Lewis is right, that this points to the fact that you were made for another kind of world?
- Are you allowing this time of shaking in our world to refocus your attention on eternal matters? How?

3. You should trust God for the impossible. (Heb. 11:27-35a)

- Faith can be a simple response of obedience to God’s word through which God works to do mighty things. Have you been reading God’s word? What has He been teaching you through it?
- Have you felt the small (sometimes large!) nudge of the Holy Spirit, prompting you to do something? Have you obeyed? Why or why not?

4. You should stand firm in the dichotomy. (Heb. 12:35b-38)

- Read Hebrews 1:35 again. How is it that faith is behind both triumph and persecution?
- Have you learned to trust God not only to do great things but to sustain you through trouble? How?
- Do you trust that even now, God is working in your life for His glory and your good? How might present circumstances turn out for the good of those who love God?

Conclusion

- Read Hebrews 12:1-2
- Jesus is the ultimate example of faith in the midst of suffering. How can you focus on Him during this time of isolation and difficulty?