

Madison Heights Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
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MADISON HEIGHTS MESSENGER

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Earnestly Seek Him

The author of Hebrews makes an attempt to define what faith is. Hebrews 11:1 faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen (NRSV). This would not be an exact definition by today's standards with our availability of dictionaries. However, it does provide us with a basic understanding that our faith is a matter of belief and it does not need to be proven by history, science, or anything else. Faith is more of a matter of the heart than the brain. Faith is a matter of believing in things that may be unknown, mysterious, or otherwise unproven.

The author of Hebrews expands upon the idea of what faith is by mentioning some biblical examples of faith. The first example of faith is Abel; he presented the first of his flock as a sacrificial offering to God. Enoch is the next example of faith. At the age of 365, he did not see death because God took him into heaven due to his righteousness. Noah is another good example of faith, during his time he was the only faithful person in the entire corrupt world. Because of his faithfulness he was able to survive the flood and save his family. Abraham was rewarded for his faith by being the father of a great nation and living to a ripe old age and being with his family as he passed in peace.

I think Jesus is the very best example of faith. Jesus chose God's will over Satan's temptation and allowed himself to be sacrificed for the salvation of humanity. He once said that "with faith you can move mountains." Of course that is a metaphor and is not to be taken literally. He was a mountain mover that transformed the world. Our faith depends upon believing in him and who he is – the Christ, the Savior of the World, and the Son of God. Through our faith in Jesus we know that God is love and by God's grace we are saved due to our faith.

The challenge for us is to earnestly seek him. We know that God rewards those who earnestly seek him. This means that we are to follow Christ; follow his living example, follow his teachings, and walk in his footsteps as best we can within the realm of contemporary society. Jesus commands that we strive to be perfect like God in heaven is perfect. We will never reach that goal because we are not perfect. However, it is the pursuit that is important. Our faith dictates obedience to the teachings of Jesus especially those hard to obey lessons like; love your enemies, do good to those that hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you (Luke 6:27-28). It is very hard to live up to this challenge. However, when you realize that you are a child of God and you are full of the love of Christ then living by the guidelines of the heavenly realm over the challenges and frustrations of the emotional and selfish world becomes natural. It becomes much easier to live by the Golden Rule; and treat others like you want to be treated. Earnestly seeking him is a matter of living out the greatest commandment; to Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind.

We all desire a heavenly inheritance. Let us all have a humble heart and bold faith. The cost for our faith is to forsake the things of the world. This is not easy to do because the more that you have to forsake the harder it is to forsake it. However following Jesus is not just something that you do; it is a whole new lifestyle. Living by the standards of the earth is physically gratifying but like drug addiction we need to be continuously fed by external stimulus. Living by the heavenly realm needs no external stimulus because it is internally fulfilling, lasts forever, and is much more satisfying. Therefore, it is imperative that we earnestly seek him.

George