

The Witness of Faith Series – Hebrews 11:1-7 - “The Anatomy of Faith: its subjective element”

Intro: We have seen that at the core of biblical faith lies the objective gospel core promise (legal/forensic) fulfilled in Christ according to the Scriptures. What impact does such gospel core have in the believer? How does the objective witness of faith empower our participation in God’s life and kingdom? How do old characters such as Abel, Enoch, and Noah testify to such realities through faith?

- 1) Through faith believers receive a new mind/understanding based on the revelation of Christ in the Scriptures. This knowledge is not simply a knowing or even assenting to certain facts, but a personal belief/conviction/trust/confidence/persuasion/assurance in God’s revelation/scriptures in and through Christ. The Hebrews needed to be established in such mindset regarding the continuity/reliability/fulfillment of God’s Word in and through Christ.
- 2) Through faith believers receive a belief/conviction/trust/confidence/persuasion/assurance in the mercy/grace/love/goodness of God in Christ for sinners and - for me personally - as witnessed by the core gospel promise (objective). The Hebrews needed the sustaining/affecting power of faith by feeding on the grace of God in and through Christ.
- 3) Through faith believers receive a discerning doctrinal and practical distinction between law and gospel. They begin to distinguish what is like to live by law covenant (works) as opposed to grace covenant (faith). The Hebrews needed to receive God’s kingdom and all its spiritual benefits through faith in God’s law covenant keeper for sinners, Christ!
- 4) Through faith believers participate in God’s life in union with Christ’s person and work, namely, His death and resurrection. Such participation is pleasing to God as it delivers the sum and substance of His triune being/work for creation, namely, the redemption/recreation of all things in and through Christ. The Hebrews needed grounding in such renewing participation in Christ.
- 5) Through faith believers bear witness to God’s victory in the power, advance, and reward of His kingdom in the person and work of Christ although in the midst of trials/suffering. The Hebrews needed to be propelled in the encouragement of such bold victorious advance of Christ’s kingdom although seemingly hidden in the weakness/suffering of the cross.
- 6) Through faith believers can join the witness of faith in and through the elders such as: Abel, Enoch, Noah. It is the witness of creation/redemption, the witness of redeeming blood worship, the witness of overcoming death, the witness of pleasing/seeking God, the witness of God’s reward, the witness of God’s righteousness, the witness of God’s victory. The Hebrews needed to find in and through Christ such witness of faith.
- 7) Through faith believers can join the global historical universal family of believers such as old figures prior to Israel’s patriarchs, leaders, and law. The Hebrews needed a framework of redemption beyond/before the Mosaic Covenant and even Abraham to see faith at work in keeping with God’s universal grace promise after the fall; and, the Mosaic covenant as subservient/supportive of the Gospel/Grace/Christ promise.