

## I. Introduction:

What is a risk you've taken? With your career? With a relationship? In trying a new food? Travelling to an unknown place?

## II. Study: Hebrews 11:1-16

**11** Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. **2** For by it the people of old received their commendation. **3** By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

**4** By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. **5** By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. **6** And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. **7** By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

**8** By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out,

not knowing where he was going. **9** By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. **10** For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. **11** By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. **12** Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

**13** These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. **14** For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. **15** If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. **16** But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

## III. Observation:

1. Looking at the repeated words and phrases, what are the important concepts or themes in this passage?
2. What is the definition of faith according to this passage?

## IV. Interpretation:

3. What is the difference between faith, according to this passage's definition, and knowledge?
4. What was God's promise to Abraham? (v8-9)
5. What is God's promise to us?
6. What do we hope for? (v1)
7. Why did Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham and Sarah need faith?

## V. Application:

The Jewish Christians that the author of Hebrews was writing to were facing persecution. As such, they were taking huge risks with their own life and well-being by continuing to follow Jesus. They needed faith. They needed confidence that God would come through with his promises. They needed to be assured that they would get the rewards. When God asks us to take substantial risks for him in our lives, we need confidence that the final outcome is assured.

9. Have you taken any big risks in life for God? Share! 😊
10. Is God asking you to take any risks in your life for him right now?