

How Faith Works

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Hebrews 11:8-12:2.
- B. The key ingredient to the Christian is faith.

II. What faith is not.

- A. It is not a hunch.
- B. It is not a feeling of optimism.

III. What faith is.

- A. Faith begins with hope—it starts with a sense of discontent and a longing for something better.
- B. Faith is conviction of the unseen—an awareness of something outside, an invisible spiritual kingdom.
- C. Faith is an awareness of Someone else—without faith it is impossible to please God.

IV. The implications of faith.

- A. Faith puts us immediately in touch with reality
- B. It is a way that we might overleap the torturous windings of reason and lay hold of the basic facts of life.

V. How faith works: faith illustrated.

A. Able.

1. Able knew that life with God comes from dependence upon Him.
2. The believer must lay down his life for God.

B. Enoch.

1. Enoch learned to walk with God.
2. Enoch was taken up with God because of this and becomes a picture of the Christian hope.

C. Noah.

1. Noah believed God in a unique way.

2. Faith believes there is a special reality with God.

VI. Conclusion.

A. Faith adjusts itself to the facts of God intervening in history.

B. The man who walks by faith wins the day because he is in touch with things as they really are.

C. God is still calling men and women to live by faith, and if we act accordingly, we too will have our names added to this great parade of faith.

Application questions:

1. What is faith?

2. Which biblical model of faith stands out to you? Explain.

3. Who is a strong model of faith in your life? What do they do to stand out?
