



PRESENCE - Week 2

An Anchor of Faith

Hebrews 11:1-6

CONNECT

As a group take time to TALK ABOUT and PRAY ABOUT

- **Christmas Offering** collection is December 16th or give online @ www.indianolacc.org/
- **Men's Retreat is coming January 10-20!** Who is going? Perhaps take time after the group to ask questions and discuss the retreat. REGISTER www.hacamps.org/mens-retreat.html
- **Christmas Eve Service Times** – 2:30 / 4:00 / 5:30

1. What is your favorite Christmas decoration? What makes it your favorite?

READ TOGETHER

Take some time as a group to read our passage from Sunday.

Read all of Chapter 11 (it's kinda long!). Maybe each person in the group read two verses and read through until it's done.

(Shortcut option is just reading 11:1-6)

DISCUSS TOGETHER

2. What stuck out to you or what challenged you from this week's message?
3. What sticks out to you from the "Great Faith Chapter?"
4. Pastor Ben started with the statement "Faith is fun...for kids." Does anyone have a cool/funny story about the faith of a child?
5. Culture seems to operate from a "No Faith, Only Facts" mentality but Ben said "we don't live facts only lives." Do you agree or disagree with these statements? Explain.
6. Verse 6 starts out pretty strong. Why do you think 'Drawing Near' strengthens faith? What does drawing near to God look like for you lately?

7. In reading through Hebrews chapter 11 you see there is great power in faith! What bible character from the list challenges you and encourages you to stretch your faith? (If you don't know much about these characters – don't be shy to ask questions!)
8. Ben concluded with the statement, "Our Faith has a Face." The idea is that our faith isn't a foundational philosophy of living life. The foundation of our faith is a living resurrected Christ. How might that impact the way we live out our faith?

NEXT

9. If you have been struggling in your faith you may resonate with the father from Mark 9:24, "I do believe, help my unbelief!"
 - **Read the bible** - Romans 10:17 "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ." Time in God's word will grow your faith.
 - **Root out sin** – doubt does NOT mean you are sinning BUT if you are not looking to God for your source of joy and strength; whatever you are looking to will grow bigger and God will grow smaller. Is something replacing God?
 - **Persevere** - James 1:2-3 "Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance." What does it look like for you to stand strong in this?
 - **DRAW NEAR** – Do what that father in Mark 9 did – GO TO JESUS anyway.

How can we HELP each other in these?

CONNECT

Take some time to CONNECT together and PRAY for one another

- Are there any areas of your life that we can celebrate?
- Are there any areas of your life where we can help?
- Are there any areas of your life that we can be praying about?

FURTHER READING

Question: "What does the Bible say about doubt?"

Answer: Doubt is an experience common to all people. Even those with faith in God struggle with doubt on occasion and say with the man in [Mark 9](#), "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" (verse 24). Some people are hindered greatly by doubt; some see it as a springboard to life; and others see it as an obstacle to be overcome. The Bible has something to say about the cause of doubt and provides examples of people who struggled with it.

Classical humanism says that doubt, while uncomfortable, is absolutely essential for life. René Descartes said, "If you would be a real seeker after truth, it is necessary that at least once in your life you doubt, as far as possible, all things." This is similar to what the founder of Buddhism said: "Doubt everything. Find your own light." If we take their advice, we would have to doubt what they said, which seems rather contradictory. Instead of taking the advice of skeptics and false teachers, we will see what the Bible has to say.

A working definition of doubt is "to lack confidence, to consider unlikely." The very first expression of doubt in the Bible is in [Genesis 3](#), when Satan tempted Eve. God had given a clear command regarding the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and had specified the consequence of disobedience. Satan introduced doubt into Eve's mind when he asked, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" He wanted her to lack confidence in God's command. When she affirmed God's command, including the consequences, Satan replied with a denial, which is a stronger statement of doubt: "You will not surely die." Doubt is a tool of Satan to make us lack confidence in God's Word and consider His judgment unlikely.

Lest we think that we can lay all of the blame on Satan, the Bible clearly holds us accountable for our own doubts. When Zechariah was visited by the angel of the Lord and told that he would have a son ([Luke 1:11-17](#)), he doubted the word given to him. He logically assumed that he and his wife were too old to have children, and in response to his doubt, the angel said he would be mute until the day God's promise was fulfilled ([Luke 1:18-20](#)). Zechariah doubted God's ability to overcome natural obstacles - many people today share the same doubt. Any time we allow human reason to overshadow faith in God, sinful doubt is the result. No matter how logical our reasons may seem, God has made foolish the wisdom of the world ([1 Corinthians 1:20](#)), and His seemingly foolish plans are far wiser than man's. Faith is trusting God even when His plan goes against human reason or experience.

Contrary to the humanistic view that doubt is essential to life, the Bible says that doubt is a destroyer of life. [James 1:5-8](#) tells us that when we ask God for wisdom, we are to ask in faith, without doubt. If we doubt God's ability to respond to our request, what would be the point of asking in the first place? God says that if we doubt while we ask, we will not receive anything from Him, because we are unstable. "He who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind" ([James 1:6](#)).

The remedy for doubt is faith, and faith comes by hearing the Word of God ([Romans 10:17](#)). God gave us the Bible as a testimony of His works in the past, so we will have a reason to trust Him in the present. "I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago" ([Psalm 77:11](#)). In order for us to have faith in God, we must study to know what He has said. Once we have an understanding of what God has done in the past, what He has promised us for the present, and what we can expect from Him in the future, we are able to act in faith instead of doubt.

The most famous doubter in the Bible was Thomas, who declared that he would not believe that the Lord was resurrected unless he could see and touch Jesus himself ([John 20:25-28](#)). When he later saw Jesus and believed, he received the gentle rebuke, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." [Hebrews 11:1](#) says, "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." We can have confidence even in the things we cannot see, because God has proven Himself faithful, true, and able.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-doubt.html>