**1 – Faith Perfected**

Hebrews Chapter 11

2 - **Without Faith…**

* **It’s impossible to:**
	+ Please God. Hebrews 11:6
	+ Be saved. James 2:14
* Pleasing and saving faith is a whole or complete – perfected – faith. James 2:22.
* **“Perfected”** – means to complete, “**add what is lacking in order to render a thing full**” (Thayer)
* **What is lacking in our faith?**
1 Thessalonians 3:10

3 - **Perfected Faith starts with…**

* **It has to begin with God’s word**! **(Romans 10:17)**
* **Heb. 11:1** – ***“Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen”***.
(**2 Peter 1:5)**
* **The role of teaching**… Acts 8:4, 12, 30-31;
(note Acts 4:18; 2 Timothy 2:24; Ephesians 4:20-21)

4 - **Hebrews Chapter 11**

**What made the faith of the men & women discussed in Hebrews 11 pleasing to God and “perfected”?**

5 - **Perfected Faith must include…**

**Spiritual Vision**

* + **Faith is the *“conviction of things not seen*”, with human eyes. (Hebrews 11:1)**
	+ **The ability to *“look at the things which are not seen”* (2 Corinthians 4:17-18)**
	+ **Can we see the *“imperishable”* wreath or crown? (1 Cor. 9:25)**

**6 - Perfected Faith must include…**

* **The examples in Hebrews Ch. 11 all had Spiritual Vision.**
* **Hebrews 11:13-16** – *“All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but* ***having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance****, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth…they are* ***seeking a country of their own****…* ***they desire a better country****, that is,* ***a heavenly one****. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for* ***He has prepared a city for them****.”*

7 - **Perfected Faith must include…**

**Spiritual Vision.**

**Examples include:**

* **Vs. 7 – Noah**
* **Vs. 8 -10 – Abraham (John 8:56)**
* **Vs. 26-29 – Moses**
* **Vs. 30-31 - Seeing God’s judgment**
* **Vs. 32-33 – not enough time to tell everyone’s story of faith & spiritual vision.**

8 - **Perfected Faith must include…**

**Spiritual Vision.**

We need the ability to see with the eyes of our heart **the realization of God’s promises**.

**Ephesians 1:18-19, “***I pray that* ***the eyes of your heart may be enlightened****, so that you may know what is* ***the hope of His calling****, what are* ***the riches of the glory of His inheritance******in the saints****, and what is* ***the surpassing greatness of His power*** *toward us who believe.”*

* **Hope** - (Romans 8:24-25; 1 Thessalonians 1:3; Hebrews 6:19)

9 - **Perfected Faith must include…**

**Action.**

* **Perfected faith demands that we act based on our convictions and spiritual vision.**
* **Will we act if we don’t see the reality of what God has promised?**

10 - **Perfected Faith must include…**

**Action.**

* **Note the pattern:**
	+ **Vs. 4 – Abel offered**
	+ **Vs. 7 – Noah built/prepared**
	+ **Vs. 8 – Abraham went**
	+ **Vs. 17 – Abraham offered**
	+ **Vs. 28 – Moses kept the Passover**
	+ **Vs. 29 – The Israelites crossed**
	+ **Vs. 30 – Joshua led the march**
	+ **Vs. 31 - Rahab welcomed/hid the spies**
	+ **Vs. 32-33 – “time will fail me…” to mention all who “performed acts of righteousness”**

11 - **Perfected Faith must include…**

**Action.**

* **Other examples:**
	+ **Naaman in 2 Kings 5:8-14 and the man born blind in John 9:1-12**
* **Not enough to will or to wish to act. (Luke 15:18-20; Romans 7:19)**
* **Must be a man or woman of urgent action – (James 1:21-26; Matthew 7:21-23)**

12 - **Perfected Faith must include…**

**Endurance.**

* **We won’t endure for that which:**
	+ **We don’t have the vision to see as real**
	+ **We aren’t willing to personally invest ourselves in through our actions.**
	+ **Example of Moses decision. (Hebrews 11:25-27)**
* **Hebrews 11:32-40 – they gained approval through their endurance. We can’t *“shrink back”.***
* **Endurance is the proof of our perfected faith.
(James 1:3-4; 1 Peter 1:6-7 – note the conclusion in Hebrews 12:1-2. (Hebrews 10:32-39; Luke 21:16-19)**

13 - **Perfected Faith must include…**

**Endurance.**

* **Christians are those who remain “true to the Lord” (Acts 11:23)**
* **We are proven through what we endure for His names sake. (1 Thess. 2:14; 2 Thess. 1:4-5)**

***“It is a trustworthy statement: for if we died with Him, we will also live with Him; if we endure, we will also reign with Him.” (*2 Timothy 2:11-12)**