

“FORWARD IN THE FAITH BY FAITH”

HEBREWS 11:1-6

INTRO: A study of the Word of God will reveal that a **WHOLESOME RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IS BUILT ON TRUE FAITH IN GOD AND HIS WORD**. This involves having faith in Jesus Christ as one’s personal Savior as well as having faith in God for daily direction and provision. **FAITH IS VERY SIGNIFICANT AND FOUNDATIONAL TO HAVING A DYNAMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD**. In fact, Romans 14:23 says: **“WHATSOEVER IS NOT OF FAITH IS SIN.”** Nothing could be clearer than that statement. In addition, Hebrews 11:6 adds to that serious warning by saying; **“WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE GOD.”** **WHAT IN THAT STATEMENT DO WE NOT UNDERSTAND?** No matter who we are, what we do, or plan, or anticipate, or speculate, according to the authority of God’s Word, **A LIFE WITHOUT FAITH IS A LIFE OF SIN IN WHICH GOD CANNOT BE PLEASED TO ANY DEGREE BY ANY PERSON AT ALL!** As we anticipate a NEW YEAR, I have been thinking on the idea of Faith as it relates to our personal and church life. So much so that I suggest that our **FBC THEME FOR 2026 BE STATED AS FOLLOWS: FORWARD IN THE FAITH BY FAITH**. What does that mean? Well, it is not hard to understand. The concept of the phrase is that **AS WE GO FORWARD INTO THE NEW YEAR LET’S DO SO THROUGH FAITH IN GOD BY THE PRINCIPLES OF FAITH THAT ARE TAUGHT IN THE WORD OF GOD**. Does that sound biblically reasonable? I think it does, so let’s take a few moments and study that concept of **GOING FORWARD INTO THE NEW YEAR IN THE FAITH BY FAITH**.

I. GOING FORWARD “IN THE” FAITH

NOTE: The phrase **“IN THE FAITH”** is found several places in the Bible:

- Galatians 1:23; 1 Timothy 4:1; Jude 3

A. The Identification of “THE FAITH.”

“THE FAITH” speaks of the **WHOLE BODY OF TRUTH THAT IS REVEALED IN THE COMPLETE WORD OF GOD**.

1. As Identified in the Old Testament
Psalm 119:30; Romans 15:4
2. As Identified in the New Testament
John 17:17; Romans 9:1

B. The Affirmation of “THE FAITH.”

RECOGNIZING THAT ALL THAT THE WORD OF GOD SAYS IS ABSOLUTE TRUTH WITHOUT ANY DOUBT OR ANY ERROR TO ANY DEGREE.

1. As affirmed in the Old Testament
-Psalm 119:142, 160
2. As affirmed in the New Testament
-1 Thessalonians 2:13

C. The Personification of “THE FAITH.”

APPLYING EVERY TRUTH OF SCRIPTURE TO EVERY ASPECT OF OUR PERSONAL LIVES THROUGH TOTAL OBEDIENCE TO SCRIPTURE – Joshua 1:8

II. GOING FORWARD “BY” FAITH

A. Going forward “BY FAITH” involves TAKING GOD AT HIS WORD WITHOUT ANY MEASURE OF DOUBT OR HESITATION. John 2:5

1. Obeying God’s Word in Prayer – 1 Thessalonians 5:17
2. Obeying God in Giving – Malachi 3:10
3. Obeying God in Church Involvement – Hebrews 10:25
4. Obeying God in Missions Ministry – Mark 16:15
5. Obeying God in Government – Romans 13:1
6. Obeying God in Personal Commitment – Romans 12:1,2

GOING FORWARD “BY” FAITH MEANS TO JUST DO WHAT GOD’S WORD SAYS WITHOUT ANY HESITATION OR EXCUSE

B. Going forward "BY FAITH" involves TRUSTING GOD TO FULFILL HIS WORD AND THUS LETTING ALL OF THE RESULTING CIRCUMSTANCES UP TO HIM.

1. As taught in Proverbs 3:5,6
2. As Illustrated in Luke 5:1-11

LESSONS AND APPLICATION

PAUSE FOR A MINUTE AND CONSIDER THIS QUESTION: ARE YOU GOING FORWARD IN THE FAITH BY FAITH? THAT MEANS, ARE YOU LIVING IN OBEDIENCE TO THE WORD OF GOD, THAT IS, TO ALL THAT GOD SAYS, AND THEN THROUGH FAITH DEPENDING UPON HIM TO TAKE CARE OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES AS YOU OBEY HIM?

HERE IS HOW MANY CHRISTIANS THINK:

- LORD, I WOULD GO TO THE MISSION FIELD...BUT...
- LORD, I WOULD SPEND MORE TIME IN YOUR WORD...BUT...
- LORD, I WOULD PRAY MORE...BUT...
- LORD, I WOULD GIVE MORE TO YOUR WORK...BUT...

AS WE BEGIN 2026, PERSONALLY AND CORPORATELY AS A LOCAL CHURCH, LET'S DETERMINE TO LIVE THE PURE CHRISTIAN LIFE AS GOD DESIRES BY GOING FORWARD **IN THE FAITH** (THAT IS BY OBEYING EVERY ASPECT OF GOD'S WORD) **BY FAITH** THAT IS DEPENDING UPON GOD FOR THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND THEN WATCH HOW GOD WILL WORK IN OUR LIVES FOR HIS GLORY.