

There are two parts to faith.

1. That God is -- is faith in the existence of God. God does not argue His existence (Gen 1:1). His existence is proved by the existence of a Universe in which there are no other gods (Ps 86:8-10; Ps 19:1-3). This is just like faith in Jesus is based upon His deeds (Jn 10:37-38; 14:11).

2. God is a rewarder. The first implication is this: if God is a rewarder, then He is a provider. Jesus emphasized His Divine ability to provide (Matt 16:8-10). He preached about God's provisions and their anxieties (Matt 6:28-31). God provides for the needs of men, esp. righteous men (Ps 37:25-26).

Since God is a rewarder and a provider; we must believe in the promises of God. The implication is that faith in God involves faith in the word of God. The question often is not "Do you believe in God?" but rather "Do you believe in what God has said?" Paul believed exactly what God told him (Ac 27:25). One must believe in the Son of God and in the truthfulness of God (1 John 5:10).

Hebrews 11:6 tells us what it is like to be "without faith."

1. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. Why? The most obvious reason, faith pleases God. The example in verse five is Enoch. Enoch's righteous life was pleasing to God (Heb 11:5-6). That is the objective of life: to please God (Col 1:10; 1 Thess 4:1). Without Faith it is impossible to please God; because without faith, a person will not live a spiritual life (Rom 8:5-8).

The mind set on the flesh is the mind without faith. The person without faith does not subject himself to God's will; hence, the person without faith in the word of God cannot please God.

2. Without faith, sin reigns. This is a part of the reason for the revelation of God's word (Jn 16:8-9).

Paul tied the lack of believing the truth with taking pleasure in wickedness (2 Thess 2:11-12). Without faith; sin reigns! When Satan tempted Eve, He questioned her faith in what God had said (Gen 3:1-5). Conversely, by faith, people obey God. By faith, Noah prepared an ark (Heb 11:7). By faith, Abraham obeyed by going out (Heb 11:8). With faith, righteousness rules. Faith in God was why Joseph did not give in to temptation (Gen 39:9). Faith in Jehovah was the reason for Daniel's purity (Dan 1:8). It was because of his faith that Moses chose *not* to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin (Heb 11:24-26).

But without faith; sin reigns. Moses and Aaron sinned "because you have not believed me" (Num 20:12). This is not a weakness in faith in the existence of God; it was a failure of faith in whether or not God is a rewarder. It was the lack of faith in His word. For this reason, without faith in Jesus being the Son of God, you will die in your sins (Jn 8:24).

3. Without faith; prayers go unanswered. Jesus confirmed the necessity of

believing in order to receive the things asked for in prayer (Mk 11:24; Lk 11:9-13). God provides for those who ask; but without faith; our prayers go unanswered (Jam 1:6-8).

4. Without faith; good (and great) things become impossible. What greater thing could have happened to Enoch than to depart by ascension instead of death? (Heb 11:5-6). Recall Peter walking on the water to the Lord. What a great thing to do! But then he began to sink because he was of little faith, doubting (Matt 14:30-31). Walking on water or sinking; the difference was faith to do or a little faith.

Do we have the faith to do great things... like remove mountains (Mk 11:22-23) or do we read the text and, with only a "little faith", doubt it!

5. Without faith, there is no

Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

courage. That is obvious from the story of Peter on the water. Peter later wrote: "Add to faith, virtue" (2 Pet 1:5). "Virtue," *arete* (Gr) means manliness, valor, moral excellence! Without faith; there can be no manliness added. Without faith, valor cannot exist. Without faith; there is no courage.

When the storm arose on Galilee, the Lord's disciples (fishermen) awoke Him. He said to them, "**Why are you so timid? How is it that you have no faith?**" (Mk 4:36-40). "Timid" means afraid; without courage. They were without courage because they were without faith.

Goliath challenged all the army of Israel and they were "dismayed and greatly afraid" (1 Sam 17:8-11). But in contrast, looking at David's courage, we see the source of his courage was the "Lord will deliver me" (1 Sam 17:36-37). We see exactly the same thing in the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego (Dan 3:16-17).

6. Without faith; there is no basis for hope. He who comes to God must believe that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him (Heb 11:6). The hope comes from faith in the reward. The word "rewarder" means a remunerator, one who pays wages, a rewarder. The fundamental meaning of Hebrews 11:6 is that he who comes to God must believe that God is and that **God pays wages!** We often think of this in the negative (Rom 6:23); but in this text the wages are positive. The examples of Hebrews eleven are those with faith; not those without

faith. Faith is the basis for hope: hope in a future reward (wages!)

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for... (Heb 11:1). We need diligence to realize the full assurance of hope (Heb 6:11-12). Without faith; there is no basis for hope. But our hope founded on a strong faith in God paying wages is both sure and steadfast (Heb 6:17-19). Jesus spoke of harvesting the spiritual crop and "receiving wages" and "gather fruit for life eternal" (Jn 4:34-39).

Without faith; there is no basis for hope. With faith, the outcome of your faith is the salvation of your souls (1 Pet 1:8-9). All the faithful live in hope of eternal life (Heb 11:39).