

## Living by Faith Hebrews 11

### **The Christian life is to be lived by faith (verses 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, etc.)**

Many Christians think they live by faith; but all they're doing is living by willpower, and calling in faith.

But the men and women described in Hebrews 11 lived by faith, and as a result experienced God's power changing and satisfying their hearts.

But for this to happen to us we need to understand what faith really is.

### **Faith means trusting that, because of Christ, God will reward those who seek him (verse 6)**

Hebrews 11:6 shows that faith means trusting that God will reward those who seek him.

But what is the reward? Hebrews 11:9-10 shows that it is heaven, and Hebrews 12:14 says that the point of heaven is seeing the Lord.

Our greatest reward is seeing God as revealed in Christ, because we are wired to find our highest joys in beholding greatness, and God is the greatest greatness in the universe.

God rewards us with tastes of that now, and God will give us the full banquet in heaven.

But how can God reward sinful people with the joy of beholding him? It is not because we are good enough to earn it. It is only because Jesus paid for sins on the cross.

So faith means trusting that, because of Christ, God will reward those who seek him with joy of beholding him now and forever.

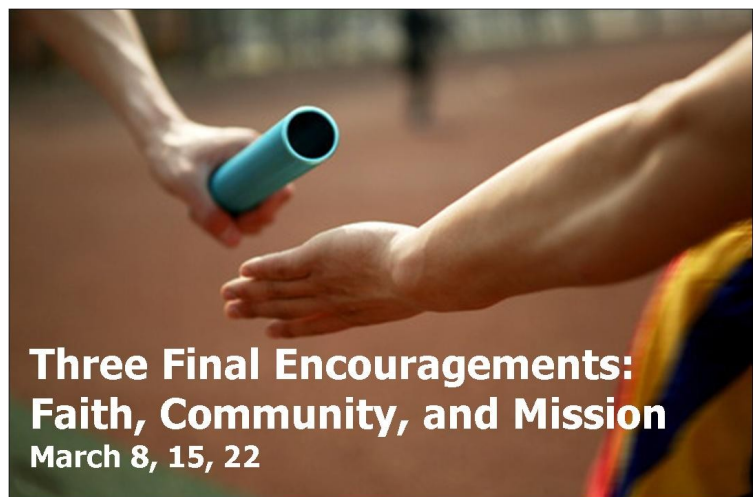
### **Living by faith means fighting to see God as our reward (verses 24-26)**

The reason Moses was able to turn from Egypt's wealth, and suffer with God's people, was because he was looking to the reward.

But this doesn't happen automatically. Sin clouds our vision so we can't see God as our reward.

That's why we need to start off each day praying for the work of the Spirit, and meditating on God's word, until we once again see and feel God in Christ as our all-satisfying treasure.

As we do that, our faith will be strengthened, and we will head into the day living by faith.



**Three Final Encouragements:  
Faith, Community, and Mission**  
March 8, 15, 22

## **HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING**

*(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)*

How much of your Christian life is lived by willpower, and how much is lived by faith?

How can you tell the difference?

Do you agree that faith means trusting that, because of Christ, God will reward those who seek him with the joy of beholding him now and forever?

Does talk about rewards make you uncomfortable? Why or why not?

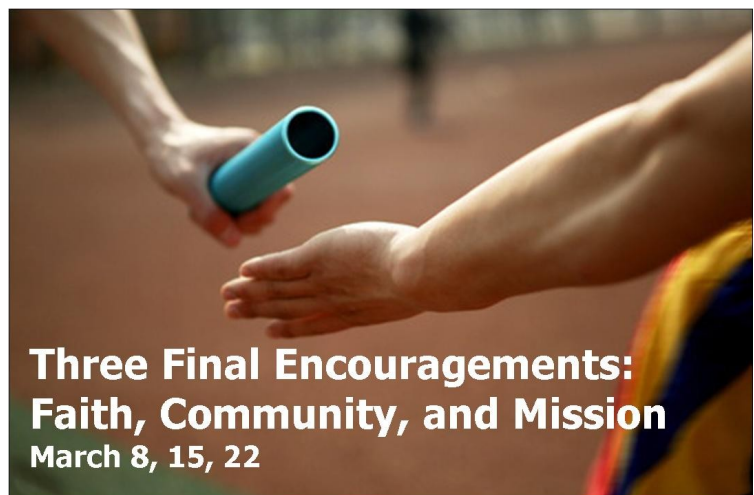
Do you agree that the reward is the joy of beholding God in Christ? When was the last time you tasted this joy?

How often do you focus on God's promise to reward you?

If we can't please God without faith, and if faith means trusting that God will reward us because of Christ, doesn't that mean we can't please God without focusing on the reward?

How are you doing in daily time fighting to see God as your reward? What's getting in the way? Are your times with the Lord life-giving, or dull? What could you do to strengthen this daily time?

Pray for each other about issues that come up in your discussion.



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