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Shepherd's Path

**A Shepherd's Personal Devotions
Great Chapters of the Bible Series, Lesson 44**

Lesson Title: Faith Chapter: Hebrews 11

Take Home Point: Trust God with your future.

Warm-Up:

Most of us attempt to control our circumstances as much as possible, in order for the outcome to be of our preference. But no matter how much we want to be in control, it simply does not work that way. For example, do you personally hold all your financial assets in your complete control at all times? Probably not. You choose to trust a bank, broker, or some kind of financial institution to handle a significant amount of your funds. Do you personally build every article you use, or every scrap of food you eat? Not likely. You trust someone to provide you those items in a way that is beneficial to you. So every day we trust other people to think about, perform, or make things that influence us but over which we have no control. Why is it sometimes hard to do that with God Almighty?

Read: Hebrews 11

Observation (What happened?):

What is the definition of faith in Hebrews 11:1?

What does verse 38 say about the relationship of the faithful to the world?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

How did faith help all the people listed in Hebrews 11?

How do we get to be joined with the faithful who have gone before us?

Insight:

I suspect most of us have a tendency to think of Bible characters as "special" – that they are not as human as we are with all our flaws, doubts and fears. As you read through the impressive list of personalities in Hebrews 11, what do you think? Of course the writer of Hebrews was focusing on their faith in God and his promises, but go through the list again. Do you suppose Noah never doubted? Or Moses? Or Abraham? Or Joseph? In fact, Gideon's doubts were a key part of stretching his faith. Did any fail? How about Moses killing a man in his feeble attempt to rescue the Israelites without the power of God? He had to live with that for the rest of his life, asking God to forgive him and moving on emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. Isaac had every intention of countering God's revealed plan in how he blessed his sons. Rahab's occupation was not exactly righteous. These were real people, and all commended in Hebrews 11. They were ordinary people with faith in an extraordinary God! Take heart that by our faith in God we are as commendable to the world, and as unworthy, as any listed in this chapter.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How are you revealing your faith to God this week?

How are you demonstrating your faith to those around you?

Kingdom Quest year 2