

Warnings from the Book of Hebrews – Part 2

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 4:1-11

We are studying teachings and warnings, gleaned from the Book of Hebrews, that compel people to examine their faith and their walk with God. Some may need to realize that they do not have a true relationship with Christ (not born again – John 3:6-7; II Corinthians 13:5). Some may be alerted to their need to revive, repent, and get back on track with the Lord (Ephesians 5:1-21; Hebrews 6:7-12; 10:35-39). Continuing to look at the book of Hebrews, let's examine some dangerous things people do and the gospel-driven call to correct or protect our situation. We have already noted the dangers of...

- Hebrews 2:1,3 – People let things *“slip / drift away.”*
- Hebrews 3:6,14 – People do not *“hold fast / firmly to our confidence”* in Christ.
- Hebrews 3:8-13 – People harden their hearts.

Now, we will consider ...

Hebrews 4:1-2 – People gain unprofitable knowledge of God's word.

The knowledge they gain is not profitable because faith has not been applied to it. No application means no transformation / no real profit. The faith that is meant here is not a mere intellectual understanding and superficial agreement. It is a belief that produces decision, change, and action. **See Addendum – “By Faith We Serve / Minister – Hebrews 11.** We are not saved by faith that merely knows or believes things. We are saved by faith that produces good works based on a relationship with Christ and develops Christlikeness. See Matthew 7:21-23; Galatians 5:6; Romans 2:13; Galatians 2:20; James 2:14-18; I John 5:4-5.

- Unprofitable knowledge of God's word is the result...
 - of pride, foolishness, and carelessness – a lack of fearing God and a lack of desiring to please God – See Hebrews 4:1-2; 11:6; 12:28-29; James 1:18-25; John 7:16-18; Romans 11:20; II Corinthians 7:1; Philippians 2:12-13; I Timothy 6:3-5; I Peter 1:13-17; II Peter 3:10-14 cp. Psalm 111:10.
 - of having false confidence in the flesh – See Philippians 3:1-10 cp. Romans 10:1-4.
 - of desiring earthly comfort and prosperity, rather than eternal treasure in heaven. See Matthew 6:19-33; 16:21-27; Colossians 3:1-4; I Timothy 6:3-14; I John 4:5-6.
- It is dangerous to accumulate Scriptural knowledge if you do not mix it with faith and submission. See John 13:17; II Peter 1:2-11; 2:20-22. Note how God laments the unprofitable knowledge of Israel in **Isaiah 48:17-18**. See Isaiah 30:15-21; Romans 10:1-4.

Addendum: By Faith We Serve / Minister

Hebrews 11:4-40 cp. Romans 12:3-8

God commends the saints of old who demonstrated their faith – Hebrews 11:1-2

Hebrews 11	By Faith	Object of Faith
Hebrews 11:4	Able offered the acceptable sacrifice. His testimony endured.	Faith in God's will.
Hebrews 11:5-6	Enoch was taken out of this world. without dying because he pleased God.	Faith in God's friendship.
Hebrews 11:7	Noah moved with fear.	Faith in God's Word, power, wisdom, justice, and grace.
Hebrews 11:8	Abraham obeyed.	Faith in God's leadership.
Hebrews 11:9	Abraham traveled as a stranger.	Faith in God's provision.
Hebrews 11:10	Abraham looked for a city that has. foundations – designed/built by God.	Faith in God's future plan. (see Hebrews 11:13-16)
Hebrews 11:11-12	Sarah received strength to conceive. (I Pet. 3:6 – She was responsive and loving towards her husband.)	Faith to deny the natural odds. Faith to wait for God. (This took time to learn!)
Hebrews 11:17-19	Abraham offered Isaac. (Isaac showed some faith too!)	Faith in God's promises and in His power to raise the dead.
Hebrews 11:20	Isaac blessed Jacob. (Gen. 27:1-33).	Faith in the sovereignty of God.
Hebrews 11:21	Jacob blessed both sons of Joseph, not following tradition. (Gen. 48:17-19)	Faith in God's free and unpredictable Spirit. Faith to follow God's Spirit.
Hebrews 11:22	Joseph mentioned the departing of the children of Israel and gave commandment about his bones.	Faith in God's kingdom plan - not the plans of earthly kingdoms.

Hebrews 11:4-40 – By Faith We Serve (continued)

Hebrews 11	By Faith	Object of Faith
Hebrews 11:23	Moses' parents (family) hid Moses 3 months. They were not afraid of the king's commandment.	Faith in the Sanctity of Life.
Hebrews 11:24	Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. * Chose to suffer affliction. * Rejected the temporal pleasures of sin (cp. Hebrews 11:25-26).	Faith in God's holiness. Faith in eternal destiny.
Hebrews 11:27	Moses forsook Egypt, not fearing the king when he returned to deliver Israel.	Faith in God's presence and preeminence.
Hebrews 11:28	Moses kept the Passover, and the sprinkling of blood.	Faith in God's promises. (God's mercy via blood)
Hebrews 11:29	They (Israel with Moses) passed through the Red Sea. (When the Egyptians tried they died. Why?)	Faith in God's leadership. Faith that God would win the fight. (Exodus 14:13-14)
Hebrews 11:30	Israel with Joshua circled Jericho and brought the walls down. (That's a lot of trumpet playing!)	Faith in God's mysterious ways and power. They were obedient and had the patience to wait.
Hebrews 11:31	Rahab perished not in Jericho with the unbelievers. She received the spies with peace; she took sides with God's people.	Faith in God's war: that it was just and that it was the way of victory. (1 John 5:4-5)
Hebrews 11:32-40	Many others from the Bible narrative had faith that caused them to endure terrible things, to do great things, and to receive great things.	Faith that God satisfies the soul more than anything else in this world / in this life. See Matthew 16:24-27.