

# Better (Hebrews)

Sermon Questions | 05.17.15

## Opener

This week, Pete picked up where he left off last week. Here's a recap: the "Pleasing God Path" leads to trying while the "Trusting God Trail" is the path of living by faith. Trying leads you to performing. Trusting God actually leads you to pleasing him because he is pleased by us living by faith.

Over the past week, which path would you say you traveled the most?

## Read

Hebrews 11:1

Hebrews 11:13-40

Hebrews 8:12

## Engaging with God in a Group

Hebrews 11 is a list of several people who lived by faith. These examples of faith saw the things promised by God and welcomed them from a distance.

Pete said faith is "seeing the invisible, believing it, and living as though it's true ..."  
What does this definition of faith mean to you?

In Hebrews 11:13, we see people like Abel, Enoch, Noah, and Abraham, who all lived by faith and died before they ever received the promises (possession of the land, multitudes of descendants, being a blessing to all nations – tangible things). They only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. Seeing the invisible promises of God impacted the way they lived and they lived as though the promises were true! In your relationship with God, what promises do you believe he's given you? Why do you think it's such a struggle for us to live like his promises are true when we don't experience the completion of them today?

In Hebrews 11:16, those who lived by faith longed for “a better country, a heavenly one.” When you picture heaven in your mind, what does it look like?

In Hebrews 11:36-38, we read about people who lived by faith and experienced incredible difficulty. How have the experiences you’ve had in this life made living by faith more difficult for you? Or made living by faith easier?

As we read of these Old Testament examples of faith, none of them received what had been promised because none of them received perfection which would give them full access to the Father. God promised to provide access, but it wasn’t fulfilled until Christ through His death on the cross and resurrection from the grave. In the New Covenant, we (as believers) get to live in the current reality of God’s promises. The saints in the Old Testament looked forward to the cross, we look back to it. How might living as though his promises are true influence your daily life?

Read Hebrews 8:12 together. Walk through the passage together. What would it look like for you to “see it,” “believe it,” and “live as though it is true?”

## **Engaging with God Alone**

In what areas is it the most difficult for you to live by faith (to see the invisible, believe it, and live as though it’s true)?

Challenge for the week: Comb the scriptures for God’s promises. If you would like a supplemental reference, try *True Faced* by Bruce McNicol.

## **Closing thoughts and prayer**

As we, ask God to show what he’s promised and reveal the promises we haven’t yet embraced. And to stir in us belief to live as though it is true.