

# Living by FAITH



## Faith Does (Hebrews 11:1-3, 6) Living by Faith pt. 1 Pastor Tim Peck

### THE BIG IDEA

Faith lays hold of God's promises, produces a way of life that pleases God, and helps us understand what we wouldn't otherwise understand.

### OPENING

- Do you tend to be more risk taking or risk avoiding? How has this played out in your life?
- What are some of your favorite sayings about faith?

### DIGGING DEEPER

- Pastor Tim defines faith as *“laying hold of God’s promises that are offered to us through Jesus Christ.”* Where do we find these promises? How do we know which promises in the Bible are ours to lay hold of?
- Faith involves the mind, the heart, and the will. According to the *Pocket Dictionary of the Reformed Tradition*, “True saving faith...has three components: knowledge of the content of faith (*notitia*), assent to the truthfulness of what is claimed (*assensus*), and personal trust...(*fiducia*).”<sup>1</sup> Which of these components do you think is hardest for people? What does James 2:19 suggest about people who have knowledge and assent but stop short of trust?
- Wheaton College professor Amy Peeler says, *“Faith makes it possible to be in the world but not of it while awaiting God’s fulfillment of promises.”*<sup>2</sup> How might a lack of faith lead Christians to live as if they are “of the world”? How would faith in God fulfilling his promises enable a person to live “in the world but not of the world”?

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<sup>1</sup>K. Kapic and W. Vander Lugt, *Pocket Dictionary of the Reformed Tradition* (InterVarsity, 2013), p. 51. The three Latin words correspond to the knowledge in the mind, agreement with the heart, and trust with the will.

<sup>2</sup>Amy Peeler, *Hebrews: An Introduction and Study Guide* (T&T Clark, 2000), p. 71.

- Some Christians think that people in the Old Testament were saved by going good works instead of faith.<sup>3</sup> How does Hebrews 11:2 and 6 correct this idea?

## PUTTING IT TO WORK

- What has your faith helped you understand that you wouldn't otherwise understand? Share an example with your group.
  
- Take time alone to read Hebrews chapter 11 in its entirety. Picture the people who lived by faith in this chapter. Picture yourself as part of their story. Spend time praying, thanking God that you are part of the same community of faith that they were. Report back to your group how this went.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

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<sup>3</sup>This approach to reading the Bible teaches that there are two different paths to salvation: Salvation by works of the law for Jewish people in the Old Testament and salvation by grace through faith for everyone else. This idea is sometimes taught in non-Reformed churches.