

**Review today's lesson. Pray and ask God to identify one or more statements or Scriptures He wants you to understand, learn, or practice. Underline them. Then respond to the following.**

What was the most meaningful statement or Scripture you read today?

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Reword the statement or Scripture into a prayer of response to God.

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What does God want you to do in response to today's study?

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DAY  
5

# True Faith Requires Action

**FAITH WITHOUT ACTION IS DEAD!**



James 2:26 says, "As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead." When you face a crisis of belief, what you do demonstrates what you believe. Faith without action is dead! Hebrews 11 is sometimes called the roll call of faith. Let's take a look at the actions of these individuals who demonstrated their faith.

**1 Turn to Hebrews 11. The following list on the left includes people commended for their faith in Hebrews 11. The verses of the chapter are in parentheses beside the name. Match the person on the left with the action on the right that demonstrated faith. Write the correct letters in the blanks. Some of the names will have more than one letter.**

- |                               |                                                             |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| ___ 1. Abel (v. 4)            | a. Chose to be mistreated along with God's people           |
| ___ 2. Enoch (vv. 5-6)        | b. Offered a righteous sacrifice to God                     |
| ___ 3. Noah (v. 7)            | c. Left Egypt                                               |
| ___ 4. Abraham (vv. 8-19)     | d. Made his home in a foreign country                       |
| ___ 5. Joseph (v. 22)         | e. Marched around the walls of Jericho                      |
| ___ 6. Moses (vv. 24-28)      | f. Pleased God by earnestly seeking Him                     |
| ___ 7. Israelites (vv. 29-30) | g. Gave instructions to bury his bones in the promised land |
| ___ 8. Rahab (v. 31)          | h. Followed God without knowing where he was going          |
|                               | i. Kept the Passover                                        |
|                               | j. Passed through the Red Sea on dry ground                 |
|                               | k. Welcomed and hid the Israelite spies                     |
|                               | l. Considered God faithful to keep His promise              |
|                               | m. Built an ark to save his family                          |
|                               | n. Offered Isaac as a sacrifice                             |

Answers to activity 1 are: 1-b; 2-f; 3-m; 4-d, h, l, n; 5-g; 6-a, c, i; 7-e, j; 8-k.

**2** In the previous list of actions, circle the word (the verb) in each lettered item that indicates an action taken as a demonstration of faith.

**3** Based on Hebrews 11, is the following statement true or false? Circle one. Genuine faith is demonstrated by action. True False

Genuine faith is demonstrated by action. While you are studying Hebrews 11, you may notice that a faithful life does not always bring the same results in human terms.

**4** Read Hebrews 11:32-38. Based on your own criteria, list the “good” outcomes of a faithful life on the left and the “bad” outcomes on the right. I have listed two to get you started.

“Good” Outcomes

*Routed enemies*

“Bad” Outcomes

*Stoned to death*

Verses 33-35a describe the victory and deliverance some people of faith experienced. Verses 35b-38 describe the torture, mockery, and death other people of faith endured. Were some more faithful than others? No. “These were all commended for their faith” (Heb. 11:39). They decided a “Well done!” from their Master was more important than life itself. Verse 40 explains God has planned something far better for people of faith than the world has to offer. Therefore, “Since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart” (Heb. 12:1-3).

Outward appearances of success do not always indicate faith, and outward appearances of failure do not always reflect a lack of faith. A faithful servant is one who does what his Master tells him, whatever the outcome may be. Consider Jesus: He endured the cross, but now He is seated next to the throne of God! What a reward for faithfulness! Don’t grow weary in being faithful. A reward awaits faithful servants.



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**5** Take a moment to review by filling in the blanks in the following four statements.

**The Crisis of Belief**

1. An encounter with God requires \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Encounters with God are God-\_\_\_\_\_.
3. What I do in response to God's \_\_\_\_\_ (invitation) reveals what I \_\_\_\_\_ about God.
4. True faith requires \_\_\_\_\_.

**6** Write your Scripture-memory verse for this unit. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

I pray that you are trying to please God by earnestly seeking Him (see Heb. 11:6). In the next unit we will look more carefully at the cost of following God's will. Part of the action required to demonstrate your faith will be the adjustment you must make to God. Following God's will always requires adjustments that are costly to you and even to those around you.

**7** Take time to review some of your responses at the end of each day in units 1–7. Has God asked you to do something you have not done because you lacked faith?  Yes  No If so, describe what you may need to do to demonstrate your faith in Him, His purposes, and His ways. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**8** Pray about your faithfulness. Ask God to increase your faith.

**9** Review your Scripture-memory verses and be prepared to recite them to a partner in your small-group session this week.

**SUMMARY STATEMENTS**

Faith without action is dead!

Genuine faith is demonstrated by action.

God has planned something far better for people of faith.

Don't grow weary in being faithful. A reward awaits faithful servants.

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What does God want you to do in response to today's study?

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