

- What is the commonality between all the individuals we read of in **Hebrews 11:1-12**? Obviously, they had faith! While faith is of the utmost importance, it is not going to be the main focus of our study this evening. Notice the definition of faith in **vv. 1,2**. Faith is described in these two verses as having a hope for something that you have been promised without actually seeing that thing. This faith is what made these men and women of old approved in the eyes of God. They had faith in what God and promised them, even though they had not yet seen the reward.
 - For example, Abraham was promised 3 things by God. #1: His people would inherit a great land. #2: His descendants would be a great and mighty people. #3: By his seed, all people would be blessed. The Messiah would come through him.
 - Abraham never personally received the fulfillment of these promises that were made to him, but that was ok with him because he sought something more. He sought something better. He longed for the city whose architect and builder is God. Abraham died with this hope and faith! All these people died or left this earth with the hope of God giving them something so much better than this old world. How were they able to live in such a way that they could reach that place of hope? I believe the next few verses give us the answer. (**vv. 13-16**)
- All of these people died in faith. They didn't receive the promises here. They lived as strangers, exiles, and pilgrims (KJV) in this life because they did not want to stay here forever. They longed for a better country. They desired for one that they could call their own. They wanted to get to heaven. They had a pilgrim like mindset while here on earth that helped them in their journey to get to heaven. They understood that, as pilgrims, they were on a journey to their final destination. A few things are evident when a person has a true pilgrim like mindset. Let's look at 3 things that a person does when they have this type of mindset.

I. We understand that we are pilgrims in this life. (vv. 13,14)

A. This life is temporary.

1. Generations come and go while this earth just continues on. (**Eccl. 1:1-4**)
2. David describes the lifespan of a man as just a mere breath. (**Psa. 39:4-6**)
3. Afflictions can be overcome because they are temporary as this life is. (**II Cor. 4:17,18**)
4. Paul had written to these people before this making the same point about this temporary body. (**II Cor. 15:51-55**)
5. All things physical in nature will one day be destroyed, the earth and all. (**II Pet. 3:10-12**)

B. We possess an eternal soul.

1. While this body will one day be gone, the soul will remain and endure forever. Solomon speaks to this point in **Eccl. 12:5-7**.
2. Jesus teaches us about the endurance of the soul in **Luke 16:19-31** with the story of the rich man and Lazarus.
3. The other half of **I Cor. 15:51-55** is that the soul will continue on as immortal and imperishable.
4. Our soul will live on past the grave in a new body that will not die. We live knowing that this life is not the end.

II. We do not want to stay here forever. (v.15)

A. This world is broken.

1. We live in a world that is perishing. (**II Cor. 4:1-4**)
2. Satan is the ruler of this world (**II Cor. 4:4**), and as long as this world is standing that will be the case.
3. Satan is the father of all wickedness (**John 8:44**).
4. His very nature is that of wickedness and if he is full of wickedness then this world that he is the ruler of has the same characteristics.
5. This world is full of deceit and lies. It is full of death and destruction. It is full of hate and evil. This is not the world that a Christian should desire to live in forever.
6. If this life was perfect and great, why would we ever even want to leave?

B. We do not live only for this broken world.

1. We must be careful to not use this life only for this life. Jesus says that if you are consumed with this life then you will be sorely disappointed in the next. **(Matt. 6:19)**
2. What will come of the man who loves this world and all the things of it? John says that the man that loves this world will not have the love of God. **(I John 2:15-17)**
3. What will a man benefit in the grand plan of God's love for man if he gains the whole world but neglects his soul? Jesus says that it is worthless to gain the whole world and lose your own soul. **(Matt. 16:26)**
4. While there is nothing inherently wrong with having wealth in this life, there are some things we must consider when it comes to that wealth...
 - a) How much effort, time, and energy are you putting into attaining that wealth?
 - b) Would you be willing to part with your wealth for Jesus? **(Matt. 19:16-23)**
 - c) If all of your possessions were taken away, how would you react? Would you feel as if life was over? Or would you fall down and worship God? **(Job 1:20)**
 - d) The wise words of Solomon are always good to remember. **"Thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold all was vanity and striving after wind and there is no profit under the sun. (Eccl. 2:11)**
5. Are you living for the life and its glory? Or are you living for the glory of the next life?

III. We desire for a better place. (v.16)

A. We want to be in that perfect habitation.

1. We should desire for heaven every single day we are in this broken world. **(II Pet. 3:13)**
2. Our desire should be for the place that we read of in **Revelation 21:4**.
3. In that habitation, our hope and faith will be fulfilled. All that will remain is love. **(I Cor. 13:13)**
4. Jesus promised this place to all of His disciples. **(John 14:1-3)**
5. Jesus uses the parables in **Matthew 25** to describe heaven. He says that those slaves who were faithful would be allowed to enter into the joy of their Master **(v.23)**. He also says that the other servants would be rewarded with the place that had been prepared for them from the foundation of the world. **(v.34)**
6. It is all important to note that these rewards of heaven were conditional upon their preparation for that kingdom.

B. We must prepare ourselves in this life for the next life.

1. We know the earth is going to pass away **(II Peter 3:11,12)**, and we must be preparing ourselves for that time.
2. Our focus must be on heaven and the preparation it will take to get there. **(Matt. 6:20)**
3. That is the all of man. We must fear God and keep His commandments. **(Eccl. 12:13,14)**
4. What are you preparing for in this life? Are you living this life as if you're going to be here forever? Or are you working daily to prepare yourself for the next life. Be successful in this life by preparing yourself for the next one.
5. **A lack of preparation for heaven will be the ultimate failure in this life.**

Abraham and the many examples we have here in Hebrews 11 longed to be with God more than anything else. They recognized the broken nature of this world. They knew there was a better place. Do you recognize there is a better place? You must have a fervent desire for heaven. Do you have it? If you do then you are making preparation. If you're not making preparation then change that today! Get ready! The next life is coming! May God help us to prepare for the next life and be ready when that time does finally come.