

A Sight Unseen Part 2

“Choosing the Right Focus”
Hebrews 10:38-11:6

I. Faith functions as a **SPIRITUAL WINDOW** through which we see the Character and Nature of God. *Hebrews 10:35-11:6*

Key passage.

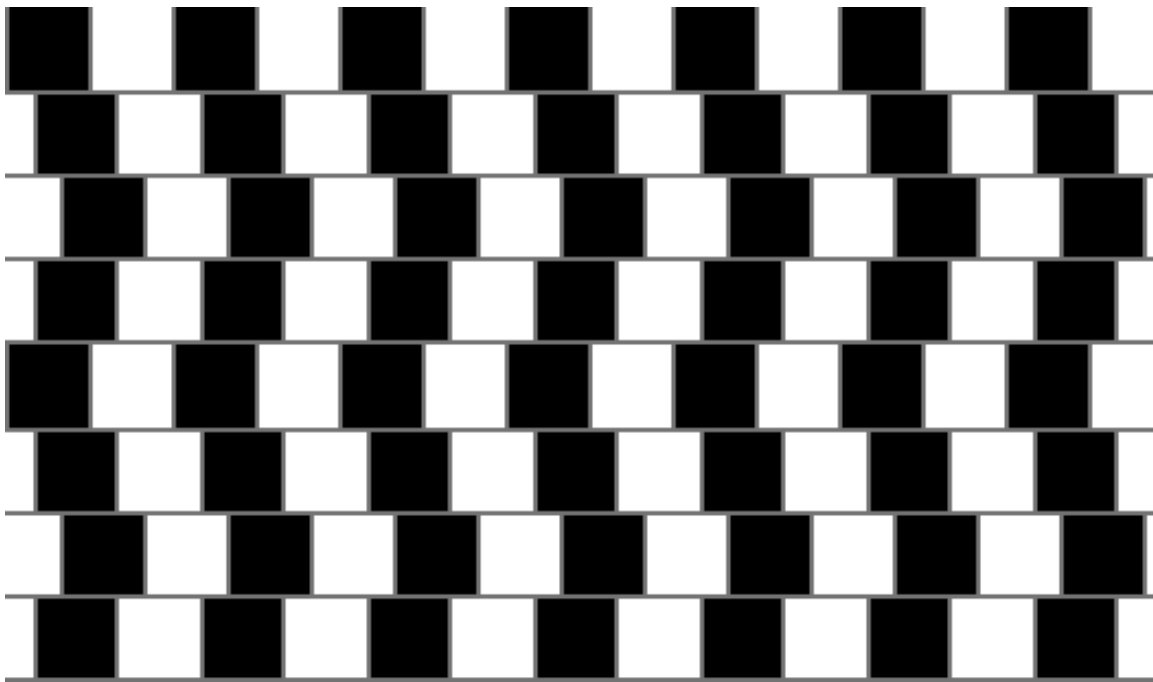
Hebrews 10:35-11-2 So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. (36) You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. (37) For in just a very little while, "He who is coming will come and will not delay. (38) But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him." (39) But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved. (11:1) Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. (2) This is what the ancients were commended for.

- Faith Looks FORWARD. *Hebrews 11:10 & 26*
- Faith takes the LOOKS for what is unseen. *Hebrews 11: 27*

Hebrews 11:3-6 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. (4) By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead. (5) By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. (6) And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

- The REFERENCE point of Faith is God's character.

Are the gray horizontal lines straight or do they bend?



II. Faith is SEEING all of life from God's perspective, and LIVING accordingly.

*"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible."
Hebrews 11:1-3 NKJV*

- Faith has a FORENSIC quality to it.
- Faith Requires a RIGHT FOCUS. *John 11:39-40, Isaiah 55:8-9*

What do you see?



Faith traces the outline of the events of our lives and sees the hand of God at work.

- Faith Requires more than BELIEF. *James 2:17-18*
- Faith must result in ACTION.

James 2:17-18 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. (18) But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.

- Faith must result in OBEDIENCE. *Hebrews 11:8*

Hebrews 11:8 By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.

III. Faith Functions as a **MUSCLE** upon which the Glory of God is lifted in our lives.

- Faith is strengthened through **TESTING**. *James 1:2-4*

James 1:2-4 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, (3) because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. (4) Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

- Increasing Faith requires us to be **FAITHFUL**. *Luke 17:5-10*

Luke 17:5-10 The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" (6) He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you. (7) "Suppose one of you had a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Would he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, 'Come along now and sit down to eat'? (8) Would he not rather say, 'Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink'? (9) Would he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? (10) So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.'"

Prayer

Lord God would you enable each of us to trust You completely, to give You full control of our lives, of our hearts, of our thoughts, of our emotions. Forgive us for more often fearing man than having a holy reverence for You. Teach us to fear You by giving us a more accurate understanding of who You are and what You value, and what You detest, even in our own lives. Enable us to live a life of faith in You that transforms us into the men, and women, and students, and children whose lives and character reflect the image of Jesus Christ our King and Lord. Amen.