

**Title:** “Paul the Apologist for Faith”

**Introduction:** The apostle Paul addresses the Jews at Judea, and his apologetic message is a powerful challenge for them to live by faith. This chapter is sometimes referred to as the great hall of faith. Paul began by powerfully defining the word faith. He then used the largest illustration he could have used, the Creation. Paul’s next argument was to highlight the great demonstration of faith by Abel and Enoch. Paul then makes a powerful, definitive statement in verse six declaring the impossibility of pleasing God without faith. Paul continued highlighting the great faith of Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Sara. Paul proved here again to be a powerful apologist for the common faith. As he employed the definition, an imperative statement, the illustration of the Creation of the Universe, and powerful testimonies of faithful saints one would be hard pressed to reject the Gospel message that Paul presented.

**Propositional Question:** If anyone could live by faith, why couldn’t everyone?

**Text: Hebrews 11:1-11** “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.”

**CONTEXT:**

**Who:** The epistle of Hebrews was written by the Apostle Paul.

**What:** The charge to live by faith. The great hall of faith provided excellent examples.

**Where:** The message was delivered in Judea.

**When:** The epistle of Hebrews was written in 63 AD.

**How:** Paul used the testimonies of the great faith of the saints as teaching moments.

## **INTERPRETATION:**

**Key theme:** The overwhelming message of this passage is to live one's life by faith.

**Key words:** Faith, substance, God, pleased, impossible, diligently, righteousness, faithful, and promised.

**Summary of the text:** Paul defined faith at the beginning of the text in chapter eleven. Paul immediately employed the Creation to demonstrate believing by faith. Creation was to teaching moment that was widely excepted without argument, thus living by faith seemed far simpler to accomplish than creating a universe. The next unarguable which the apologist employed was that of testimonies of people who were known of from the Old Testament Scriptures and generally accepted. Paul discussed the faith of Abel and Enoch to drive home his argument to life by faith. When Paul next employed the word, "impossible," verse six, he was really saying, do you really want to attack or disbelieve "impossible"? Paul continued to describe Old Testament saints who's faith could not be challenged, and would add extra weight to his case for faith. He referenced, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Sara. One might semis that when Paul gave an alter call the pews were empty.

**Summary of the passage:** Paul used the first five verses of Hebrews chapter eleven very powerfully. His use of defining faith, invoking the Creation, and employing the testimony of the Old Testament saints and Patriarchs was an incredibly effective use of apologetic acumen.

**Summary of the main verse: Hebrews 11:3** "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." It would stand to reason that faith comes from the Bible. Paul built on this by the use of the largest tangible to prove the largest intangible.

## **APPLICATION:**

**Original audience:** The Jews-believers at Judea.

**To myself:** I must remind myself of the great proofs of the Bible when my faith get wobble.

**To family:** The employment of the Creation, or smaller events in the environment are a great witnessing tool to draw family members to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

**To church:** The local church does well to teach classes on Creationism along with Apologetics.

**My job:** Sometimes while on the job it may be good to give a brief praise about God's Creation.

**To society:** Part of the Christians obligation as a current earthling is to teach and witness about God Creation, and how God brought us into the World, which will lead to why we are here, and how we can go to Heaven one fine day.