



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Faith Defined

SPEAKER

SP Chua Seng Lee

THEME Hebrews Revisited

DATE

13 & 14 April 2024

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

We are revisiting the Book of Hebrews starting from Chapter 11 since the preceding chapters were covered in the past. Chapter 11 is focused on faith. It provides us with the definition of faith and highlighted a number of people who demonstrated their faith in good times and bad.

DEFINITION OF FAITH

In Hebrews 11:1-3 Faith is defined as “the assurance of things hoped for; the conviction of things not seen..” It is believing in the promises of God and in things that are unseen. Another way to describe this is, it is not simply believing in the impossible but believing in the impossible that God has promised. To demonstrate how faith is being applied, SP Seng Lee gave us the following examples:

1) Abel, Enoch & Noah:

They showed us that what matters are: “how to give, walk and work” respectively.

2) Abrahamic Family

Abraham walked as he was directed without any hesitation; he waited for God’s promise without impatience and he continued to worship the Lord throughout his life.

3) Moses

Moses showed us the importance of choice in light of not knowing what his future would be. He chose to walk and obey God instead of staying as “the son of Pharaoh’s daughter”. He chose testimony over title, wilderness over wonderland.

SP reminded us that “Living by Faith” is essential for Christians and cautioned us about falling into the trap of being faithless (afraid to live by faith) or exercising Presumptuous Faith where we believe that our circumstances will always be favourable. He elaborated by taking us through the “Paradox of Faith” looking specifically at three areas:

- 1) Unexpected People: These are individuals who did not necessarily live obedient or moral lives and yet, were called out as People of Faith such as Rahab (prostitute: Joshua 2:1-6); Gideon (doubter: Judges 6:17-24); Barak (fearful: Judges 4:4-9); Samson (immoral: Judges 14:1-2; 16:30) and Jephthah (foolish: Judges 11:30-31). Each story demonstrates that God can use unexpected people for his Purpose. That Faith is not meant only for God’s followers for

example, King David, Samuel or the Prophets. Faith is for everyone. We were also reminded that our focus should not be on the greatness of our faith but on the Greatness of our God.

- 2) Unexpected Situations: Hebrews 11:33-35. These passages and throughout the bible, God's people experienced a period of difficulties and darkness before the fulfilment of God's promises. However, SP reminded us that we should look at those difficulties as opportunities rather than as obstacles of Faith. God is able to turn unexpected situations for Good. As long as we place our trust in God, who is our Saviour and is always in control, we do not face the difficulties and darkness alone.
- 3) Unexpected Outcomes: As we strive to be faithful to God, it is important that we do not presume that good outcomes will always happen (Psalm 19:13). It is God alone who makes things happen. In situations where nothing or something bad happens, SP shared some scriptural truths on how we should respond, mainly looking at Hebrews 11:38-40.
 - a) Trust in God's Timing: (Hebrews 11:40). In situations where the answer may be No or Wait, God will always provide us with something better in **His Time** (Eccl 3:11)
 - b) Trust that God gives **the best**: (Hebrews 11:35,40)
 - c) Trust that God guarantees **the ultimate victory**. Not all of God's followers in the bible received what had been promised in their lifetime in spite of their faithfulness. However, their responses were focused on God's ultimate and perfect victory that all of us as God's followers can receive.

CONCLUSION

Our faithfulness should be focused on the Who and not the What. Knowing that life on this earth is not always easy, we should place our trust in God our Saviour, who knows the perfect timing and answer in any given situation. We do not face life challenges alone because it is through the greatness of our God that guarantees our victory.

QUESTIONS

1. SP Seng Lee talked about the scale of faithfulness among God's followers i.e. from faithless to presumptuous faith. Where do you think you fit on that scale? Why do you place yourself there?

2. The scriptural responses shared by SP in unexpected situations and outcomes are Trust in (a) God's Timing & Season; (b) God gives the best and (c) God's ultimate victory. Which of these responses have you experienced in your life and how did that grow your faith?

3. As we continue our journey of Faith, what are some of the things or beliefs that limit your ability to place your trust in God? How can you minimize or remove those things/beliefs?