

Theme: The Christian life is one of faith from beginning to end, calling us to a life willing to risk for God and His kingdom.

I. German Heavy Cruiser Admiral Graf Spee

- A. "A ship in a harbor is safe, but that is not what ships are built for." (J.A. Shedd)
- B. Admiral Graf Spee - Fast, powerful German heavy cruiser
- C. In first few weeks of WWII sank five different vessels
- D. Fought with three British cruisers, inflicting heavy damages on them
- E. While in port being repaired Captain heard rumors of strong British force coming - and scuttled the ship!
- F. How do we live a life to glorify and enjoy God?
- G. How do we walk out a life of total commitment & participation?

II. The Call To A Life of Total Trust

- A. Hebrews 11 - The centrality of faith
All these people were still living by **faith** when they died.
Hebrews 11:13
 - 1. The central topic of this chapter - faith!
 - 2. The word faith occurs 25 times in this chapter!
 - 3. Most of any chapter in the NT
 - a. Romans 4 is higher per word count
 - b. But Romans 4 all about justification by faith alone
 - c. Hebrews 11 - a life of total faith/trust

B. The essential call to faith for God's people

- 1. God's people have always lived by faith
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.** Hebrews 11:1-2
 - a. Faith is not a New Testament thing
 - b. Faith was always the way people walked with God
 - c. The whole chapter is a review of this fact
- 2. The only way to please and glorify God is by faith
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. Hebrews 11:6
 - a. We can only please God as we walk by faith
 - b. To please God here is the same as glorifying God
 - c. We can not fulfill our purpose and call as humans and as Christians apart from a life of faith
- 3. We are justified by faith
By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. **By his faith** he condemned the world and **became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.** Heb. 11:7
 - a. Noah received righteousness like us - by faith
 - b. Righteousness/justification comes by faith alone
 - c. Thus our Christian life begins by faith
 - d. All of God's people became His people by faith

III. Describing A Life of Total Trust

A. A life of total trust produces obedience to God's call (v8)

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. Hebrews 11:8

1. Abraham is the man of faith (here, Rom 4; James 2)
2. Abraham's faith produced obedience to God
3. Not mere mental assent - he picked up and moved

B. Faith trusts God's promise for the future (v8)

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. Hebrews 11:8

1. Abraham did not know where he was going
2. Faith requires trust in God's promise
3. Faith requires us to trust in God's future grace - His future faithfulness & provision
4. Abraham risked his present life for his later inheritance

C. Faith is more concerned with future rewards than present pleasure

By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. Hebrews 11:9–10

1. Abraham was a pilgrim on the way - not a settler
2. Abraham lived like a sojourner - in a tent
3. His faith looked to future reward, not present comfort

All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. ¹⁴ People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them. Hebrews 11:13–16

1. All these people did not receive present comfort
2. All only saw from a distance - lived for the future
3. All lived as pilgrims on the way
4. Without this mindset of total trust, we turn back to old ways
5. Ultimately faith looks to heavenly reward, not this life

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. ²⁵ He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. ²⁶ He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. Hebrews 11:24–26

1. Moses forsook present pleasure for the kingdom
 2. He chose mistreatment over pleasures of sin
 3. He forsook things now for the future reward
 4. This is the essence of faith - being consumed with our heavenly reward rather than the fleeting benefits of this life
- D. Faith does not stay within the safe harbor of the status quo but steps out to risk for the sake of God's Kingdom and His people
1. In vv32-38 writer summarizes the life of total trust
 2. He gives a rapid fire list of people and how faith was displayed in their life
 3. All of these people risked the comfort of the status quo to serve God's purposes in their own day
 4. Sometimes this faith is rewarded quickly (vv32-35a)
And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets,³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions,³⁴ quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies.³⁵ Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Hebrews 11:32–35
 5. Sometimes this faith does not see its reward in this life (vv35b-38)

Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection.³⁶ Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison.³⁷ They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—³⁸ the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. Hebrews 11:35–38

6. But God always rewards those who launch out in true faith (v6)
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**. Hebrews 11:6
 - a. God ALWAYS rewards those who live by faith
 - b. Sometimes we receive the reward now
 - c. Sometimes we give up things now BECAUSE we walk by faith, and we see no reward in this life
 - d. Sometimes we perish BECAUSE we walk by faith - but we be eternally rewarded
 - e. "He is no fool who gives up what he can not keep to gain what he can not lose." Jim Elliot

IV. All In To Apply the Word

- A. Have I ever begun to walk with God by faith in Christ?
 1. There is no other way to know and walk with God
 2. Without faith it is impossible to know, love, glorify and enjoy God

3. This has always been God’s way - never by works, always by faith

4. Have you looked to Christ in faith?

B. Am I living a life of total trust in God and His promises?

1. We do not begin by faith and then shift to our works

2. We begin by faith and then live by faith

3. God does not call us to a safe harbor existence, but to launch out in faith

4. We are called to live a life of faith, willing to risk for God and His kingdom

5. We are called to participate in God’s kingdom work - which costs, but it is why we were made

6. But this leads to a very different life than the American dream

7. Which column characterizes how I live my life?

American “Dream”	A Life of Total Trust
We live by sight, not by faith	We live by faith, not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7)
Live as if this present world is your permanent home	Live as if the new heavens and new earth are your permanent home
Hedge your bets on God and His kingdom	Go all in for God and His kingdom
Maximize your pleasures and rewards now	Maximize your eternal pleasures and rewards

C. The Lord’s Table - Our Meal of Faith

A Life of Total Trust

Hebrews 11 (Hebrews 11:13-16)

October 11, 2015

Communion

Romans 15:13

Teaching keywords: faith; Christian life

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

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