

A Matter of Faith Hebrews 11:1-6

I. Intro

A. *How many of you came to church this morning?*

1. If you did, you came by faith.

B. *You didn't even think about it, did you?*

1. You had faith that your alarm clock would work this morning.
2. You had faith that your clothes would fit this morning.
3. You had faith that your car would crank this morning.
4. You had faith that all the cars you met would stay on their side of the road.
5. You had faith that the road would not fall apart.
6. You had faith that the bridges would hold up your car.

C. *We all exercise some type of faith every day of our lives.*

1. But is our faith placed in the right places and people?
2. Where should our faith be placed?

II. What is faith?

A. *Definition*

1. Faith makes the things hoped for as real as if we already have them.
2. Faith provides evidence that what is unseen is absolutely real.
3. Faith is the confidence in the worthiness and ability of someone or something.
4. Faith is setting your heart on the object of your hope and your confidence.

B. *The Object of Faith*

1. **Inadequate objects of faith**

- a. Science, Technology.
- b. False Gods: money, security, wealth, other people.
- c. Ourselves.

2. **Adequate object of faith**

- a. God.

C. *Proper faith in God.*

1. Believe that He exists.
2. Believe that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.

III. Examples of Faith

A. *Abel (Read Genesis 4:2-5)*

1. Both gave an offering to the Lord.
2. God rejected Cain's offering but accepted Abel's offering.
3. Why?
4. Hebrews 11:4 says Abel gave his offering to God by faith.
5. It was a matter of the heart.
6. Cain offered SOME, carelessly, showing his heart.
7. Abel offered the FIRST, in faith, showing his heart.
8. Cain made sure Cain was taken care of, so he kept the first of the crops, and then gave to God.
9. Cain's faith was in Cain.
10. Abel gave off the top.
11. He had hope and confidence in God that He would take care of what came afterward.

B. *What can we learn from Abel?*

1. **Faith is a matter of the heart.**
 - a. Cain knew God existed.
 - b. Cain talked to God.
 - c. But Cain didn't trust God.
 - d. He knew God was there but he didn't have any hope, any confidence, any faith in God.
 - e. He made an attempt at faith but his heart wasn't in it.
 - f. Abel knew that God existed.
 - g. And his actions showed it.
 - h. He was willing to place his faith and future in the hands of God.
2. **Your faith is a matter of your heart.**
 - a. You may believe that God exists.
 - b. But He may not be first in your life.
 - c. Where is your hope, your confidence, your faith at right now?
 - d. Who, or what, are you trusting today, and for the future?
 - e. Is it in yourself?
 - f. Is it in your own abilities?
 - g. Is your life a testimony to faith in God?
 - h. Who has your heart today?

C. *Enoch (Read Genesis 5:21-24)*

1. We find Enoch in just a few verses of Genesis.
2. He is found in the human family tree.
3. He falls between his father Jared and his son Methuselah.

4. But he is unique for two particular reasons.

- a. He is described as a man, unlike any other in this passage, that walked with God.
- b. And he is only one of two men ever who did not die.
- c. Hebrews gives us a little more insight into Enoch's life.
- d. Enoch went straight to heaven because he pleased God.
- e. This happened by faith.
- f. Enoch walked with God by faith.
- g. And he pleased God because of his faith.

D. *What can we learn from Enoch?*

1. Faith affects our walk.

- a. Enoch walked with God.
- b. He lived everyday of his life with total absolute confidence in God.
- c. Where we place our faith affects our walk.
- d. When we have faith in ourselves, it affects the way we live.
- e. We live for ourselves, selfishly and uncaring for others.
- f. We are the object of our affection and we'll do anything to protect our affection.
- g. We are our only hope so we've got to do whatever it takes.
- h. People who only have faith in themselves are cutthroats and backstabbers, because everything depends on them and what they can do to survive.
- i. When we have absolute confidence, absolute hope, in God, it will affect the way we live.
- j. When we trust in the God of promises, we'll live in a way to reach those promises.
- k. When we trust in the God of discipline and judgement, we will live in a way that keeps us from the that discipline and judgement.
- l. We are able to live in a fallen world full of cutthroats and backstabbers, because we trust in someone who is bigger and more powerful than them.
- m. We live as pilgrims, just passing through, because our confidence and hope is not in this world, the things of this world, or the people of this world.
- n. Our confidence and hope, our faith, is in God.

2. Faith pleases God.

- a. God saw how Enoch lived.
- b. He saw how he walked in a sin-filled world.
- c. He saw that Enoch lived by faith in Him.
- d. God knew Enoch's heart was turned toward Him.
- e. God knew Enoch was trusting in Him every step of the way.
- f. And that pleased God.
- g. Our dependence and confidence in God pleases Him.

- h. He loves to see us living by faith and not by sight.
- i. He loves to see that our hearts are totally committed to Him and His ways.
- j. He loves to see us react to life with confidence and hope in Him.

IV. So Biblical faith . . .

A. *True Biblical Faith is . . .*

- 1. Confidence in the worthiness and ability of God.
- 2. Setting your heart on God.
- 3. Knowing that what has not yet happened is good as done in God.

B. *Questions of faith:*

- 1. Is your heart set on God?
- 2. Is your faith affecting how you live?
- 3. Is your faith pleasing God?

C. *We are saved, through faith.*

- 1. "For by grace you have been saved through faith" (Ephesians 2:8).
- 2. "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1).
- 3. We trust that God has done is sufficient, in the person of Jesus Christ.
- 4. Our confidence is in Jesus Christ.

V. Sometimes our faith is tested.

A. *Things happen in life that test our faith.*

- 1. Our confidence in the worthiness and ability of God is tested.
- 2. Setting our hearts solely on God is tested.
- 3. Believing that what has not yet happened is as good as done is tested.
- 4. What do we need to know to face the testing of our faith?

VI. We need to know that the testing of our faith is going to happen.

A. *We have to expect the testing of our faith.*

- 1. The Bible says "when" or "whenever", not IF.
- 2. "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation" (John 16:33).
- 3. "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22).
- 4. "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you" (1 Peter 4:12).

B. *Testing of our faith is going to happen.*

1. There is no way around it.
2. We're going to get sick.
3. We're going to have accidents.
4. We're going to face tragedies.
5. We're going to have hard times.
6. We're going to face the hard times of life.
7. Satan is going to fight against us.
8. The world is going to fight against us.

C. *Our faith will be tested.*

1. Our confidence in God will be tested.
2. Our hearts will be tested.
3. Our knowledge of God's promises for the future will be tested.

VII. We need to know that our values will determine our reactions to the testing of our faith.

A. *What we're made of comes out in the tests of our faith.*

1. If we value comfort more than character, tests will upset us.
2. If we value material and physical things more than spiritual things, tests will crush us.
3. If we live for the present and not think about the future, tests will make us bitter.

VIII. We need to know that God has a purpose for the testing of our faith.

A. *The tests of faith do not surprise God.*

1. He allows the tests for a reason.
2. He allows them so that we can see just where our faith is at.
3. He allows them so that we can see that our faith is genuine.
4. He allows them so that we know that God is working something out of us.

B. *The story of gold.*

1. They say that back in the gold rush days there was a procedure taken.
2. When someone found what they thought was gold, they took it to a person called an assayer.
3. The assayer will build a very hot fire.
4. Then he will place the suspected gold over the fire.
5. While the assumed gold is over the fire, the assayer puts acid on it.
6. How it reacts to the fire and acid reveals whether it is really gold or just a fake.

C. *God has a purpose for the tests of our faith.*

1. God is trying to purify your heart.
2. He is teaching you to persevere, to be patient.

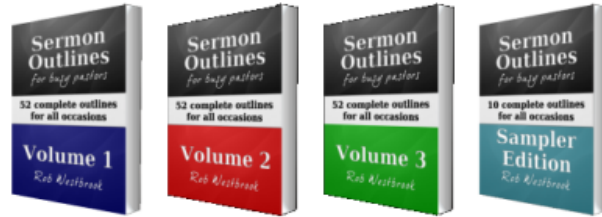
3. He is teaching you to cling to Him when things get tough.
4. He is helping you become a mature Christian.
5. He is helping you become a complete Christian.

D. The purpose of the testing of our faith:

1. To build our confidence in the worthiness and ability of God.
2. To assure our hearts that God is sufficient.
3. To fortify our hope that what God has promised, He will do.

This sermon is by [Rob Westbrook](#).

This sermon comes from the book *Sermon Outlines for Busy Pastors: Volume 2*. You can find out more about this book and all books in the series at <http://busypastorsermons.com>.



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3. World History - Genesis 1:1
4. Meeting the Challenge - Romans 10:13-17
5. The Way It Really Is - Isaiah 6:1-9
6. Why? - John 9:1-5
7. Lessons from Ephesus - Ephesians 1:1-3
8. Stairway to Heaven - Genesis 28:10-19
9. What is Your Definition of Success? - Luke 12:13-21
10. Real Faith - 1 Samuel 13:23-14:14
11. He's Still Jesus - Matthew 11:1-6
12. Jesus, Our Reconciliation - Romans 5:6-11
13. What If There Had Been No Resurrection? - 1 Corinthians 15:1-20
14. The Lord's Supper - Luke 22:14-20
15. Commitment Requirements - Matthew 26:36-46
16. Law and Grace - John 8:2-12

17. Your Biography - James 4:14
18. Be Single-Minded - Matthew 6:19-24
19. Come Back to God - Hosea 11:1-11
20. The Influence of Mothers - 2 Timothy 1:1-6
21. The Message of Jesus - Mark 1:14-15
22. The Rule of the Temporary and the Eternal - Philippians 4:4
23. Be Encouraged - Romans 8:31-39
24. Skeletons in the Closet - Matthew 1:1-17
25. Men on Fire - Daniel 3:1-30
26. Judas - Luke 6:12-16
27. Forgiveness - Matthew 18:21-22
28. Repentance Toward Revival - 2 Samuel 11:1-5
29. Revival Conditions - 2 Chronicles 7:13-15
30. A Revival for God's Army - 1 Samuel 17:4-11
31. The Work Required - John 6:28-29
32. Five Steps to Spiritual Maturity - Hebrews 5:11-6:3
33. A New Creation - 2 Corinthians 5:16-17
34. Where Are You Going? - Galatians 1:13-17
35. Holy Ground - Exodus 3:1-6
36. What Will You Do with Jesus? - Matthew 27:11-22
37. Walk of Faith - John 4:46-54
38. Grace - 2 Samuel 9:1-13
39. Directions - 2 Kings 5:1-15
40. Community Callings - 1 Thessalonians 5:14
41. Tried and True Faith - 1 Peter 1:6-7
42. What Are You Doing Here? - 1 Kings 19:1-16
43. Thanksgiving - Psalm 103:1-5
44. Reminders - 1 Corinthians 1:1-9
45. Time to Rejoice - Philippians 4:4
46. A Church God Can Use - Colossians 1:1-14
47. He Was Born to Be - 1 John 1:1-3
48. Turning the World Upside Down - Acts 17:1-6
49. Turning the World Upside Down, Question 1 - Acts 17:6
50. Turning the World Upside Down, Question 2 - Acts 17:6
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1. A Fresh Start - Exodus 2:1-10
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3. Abnormal - 1 Peter 2:4-12
4. The Fear of the Lord - Proverbs 1:7
5. The Call, Promise, and Challenge - Numbers 13:26-33
6. The Most Important Exam - 2 Corinthians 13:5
7. Requirements - Deuteronomy 10:12-22
8. What the Lord Supper Means - 1 Corinthians 11:23-40
9. Just Who Are You? - Colossians 2:6-20
10. Jesus - Our Redemption - Galatians 4:3-7
11. The Tempter and Us - Genesis 3:1-7
12. Jesus - The Propitiation - Romans 3:21-26
13. What's the Point of a Right Life? - Romans 12:1-2
14. A Church in Trouble - Revelation 3:14-22

15. Palm Sunday – Jesus Isn't Always What We Want Him to Be - Romans 3:21-26
16. The Sacrifice of Atonement - Romans 3:21-26
17. Out of the Blue - Matthew 27:15-26
18. Chasing - Psalm 63:1-8
19. A Woman Who Makes a Difference - Acts 9:36-43
20. Messed Up People - Genesis 9:18-23
21. A Matter of Faith - Hebrews 11:1-6
22. What Faith Has to Offer - Hebrews 11:32-40
23. Something to Glory In - Jeremiah 9:23-24
24. One Eye on the Enemy and One on the Wall - Nehemiah 4:13-17
25. By Our Love - John 13:31-35
26. Crime and Punishment - Leviticus 24:10-16
27. Follow Jesus or Bust - Luke 9:57-62
28. A Challenge from God - Malachi 3:6-12
29. Because of Others - Mark 2:1-5
30. Hope - Mark 5:24-34
31. Purpose in Problems - Matthew 14:22-33
32. Repentance - Matthew 6:25-33
33. Reasons for Our Thanksgiving - Colossians 1:1-6
34. Church on Fire - Acts 2:1-4
35. Church on Fire - Fan the Flames - 2 Timothy 1:5-7
36. The Name of Jesus - Philippians 2:5-11
37. When Did Christmas Begin? - 1 Peter 1:18-21
38. Memorial - Joshua 4:1-7
39. Misconceptions - The Church - Matthew 16:18
40. Misconceptions - Worship - John 4:19-26
41. Misconceptions - Discipleship - Luke 9:23-24
42. Misconceptions - Ministry - 1 Peter 4:10
43. Misconceptions - Evangelism - Acts 1:8
44. Misconceptions - Missions - Acts 1:8
45. Misconceptions - Fellowship - Acts 2:42-47
46. Seriously - Exercise Naked - 1 Timothy 4:6-10
47. Seriously - The Simple Life - 2 Corinthians 11:2-4
48. Seriously - Peace and Quiet - Psalm 46:1-11
49. Seriously - Surrender - Philippians 2:3-8
50. Xmas: What's Missing in Your Christmas? - Amazement - Genesis 3:15
51. Xmas: What's Missing in Your Christmas? - The Supernatural - Matthew 1:18-25
52. Xmas: What's Missing in Your Christmas? - Reflection and Perspective - Luke 2:19

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5. Fresh - Mission - Matthew 28:19-20
6. Fresh - Perspective - 2 Kings 6:13-17
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9. Rooted - The Bible - 2 Timothy 3:16-17

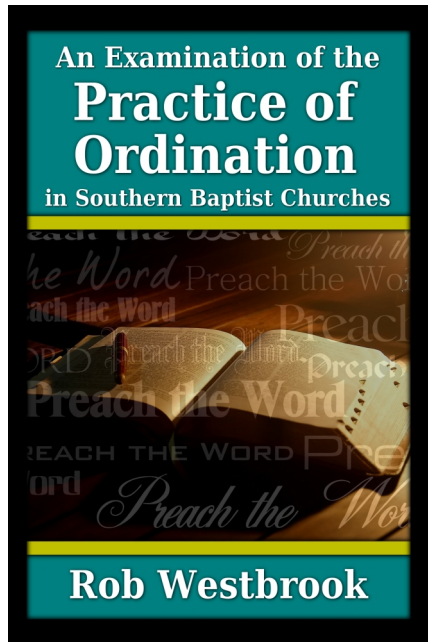
10. Rooted - What is God Like? - Genesis 1:1
11. Rooted - The Trinity - Deuteronomy 4:35
12. Rooted - Prayer - Matthew 6:8
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14. Rooted - Baptism and Communion - Acts 10:47-48
15. Rooted - Sin - Isaiah 59:1-8
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17. Rooted - Resurrection and Ascension - 1 Corinthians 15:13-19
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24. Great Commission - Our Commission - Matthew 28:16-20
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44. Disciple - The Word - John 8:31-32
45. Disciple - Prayer - John 15:7
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47. Disciple - Witness - John 15:8
48. Disciple - Service - John 15:13
49. Disciple - Making Disciples - Matthew 28:18-20
50. Communion - So What? - 1 Corinthians 15:12-19

51. Baby Dedication - Psalm 127:3

52. A Wedding Ceremony - Genesis 2:21-24

53. A Funeral Message - Psalm 116:15

An Examination of the Practice of Ordination in Southern Baptist Churches



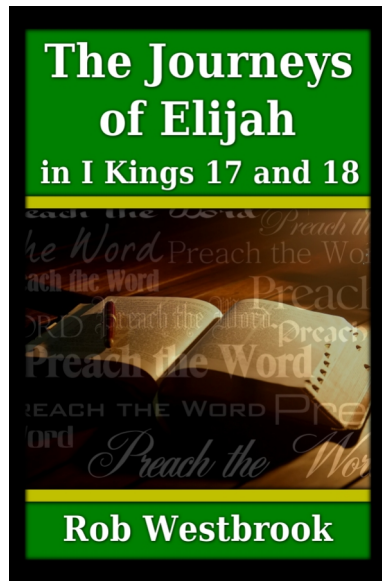
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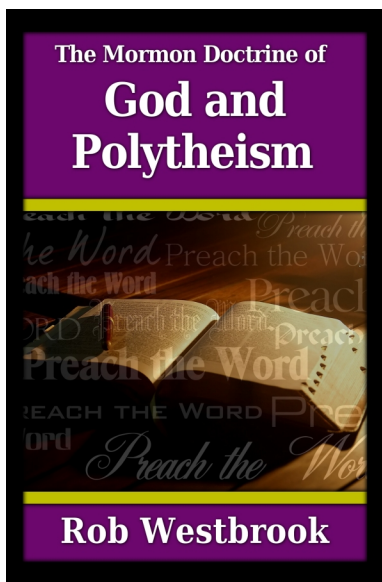
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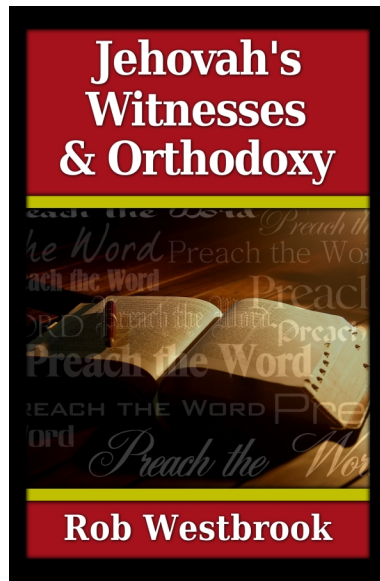
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About the Author



About the Author

Rob Westbrook became a follower of Jesus Christ at the later age of thirty. Called into the preaching ministry at thirty-two, Rob attended New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, earning a Bachelors of Arts degree in Pastoral Ministry. He later earned forty-six hours toward a Masters of Divinity degree.

Rob became pastor of his first church, Hebron Baptist Church, in Amite County, Mississippi, in 1998, while attending seminary. By 2002 the time commitments to both seminary and the church became strained, and Rob chose to leave seminary behind for the church. Around 2005, God began preparing him for planting a new church. He left his first church pastorate in 2006 to become a church planter in his hometown of Amory, Mississippi. LifePointe Church had its first service in January 2008. Rob currently serves there, at LifePointe Church.

Rob has been married to Teresa for almost 23 years. He and Teresa have one daughter, Lauren, who is engaged to Brandon Britt. They will be married in March 2013.