

Faith Motivation versus Feeling Motivation

Faith is:

Believing the Word of God (Hebrews 11:1, Romans 10:17)

and acting upon it (James 1:22-25, John 3:36)

no matter how I feel (Hebrews 11)

knowing that God promises a good result (Hebrews 11:6, Romans 8:28-29)

Memorize the above definition of faith.

We are to act upon God’s Word no matter how we feel. This section will look at the example of Biblical characters to guide us in our understanding of this principle. Read through the “Hall of Faith” in Hebrews chapter 11 before beginning this exercise. Next, examine the specific verses listed, recording the name of the person to whom the verse refers. Take some time to ponder what emotions would normally arise when confronted with these real-life situations. If you cannot recall the Old Testament events to which the passage refers, look back to the Old Testament. Finally, list the action words that describe how the person responded in faith.

	Who?	Emotions/Feelings	Actions of Response
Hebrews 11:4 <i>Genesis 4:1-8</i>			
Hebrews 11:7 <i>Genesis 6:5-9:17</i>			
Hebrews 11:8 <i>Genesis 12:1-7</i>			
Hebrews 11:9 <i>Genesis 23</i>			

<p>Hebrews 11:11 <i>Genesis 21:1-8</i></p>			
<p>Hebrews 11:17 <i>Genesis 22</i></p>			
<p>Hebrews 11:24-27 <i>Exodus 2:1-15</i></p>			
<p>Hebrews 11:28 <i>Exodus 11-12</i></p>			
<p>Hebrews 11:29 <i>Exodus 14</i></p>			
<p>Hebrews 11:30 Joshua 6</p>			
<p>Hebrews 11:31 Joshua 2</p>			

These people were motivated, not by their feelings, but by their faith in God and His promises. Write Hebrews 11:1 and Hebrews 11:6 and meditate on the definition of faith given on page one.

Hebrews 11:1

Hebrews 11:6

Re-read Hebrews 11 while focusing on the “good reward” God had promised to these people. List the “good rewards” to which they were looking.

Notice that the rewards of faith are eternal in nature. While our feelings last only for a moment, and the reward for following them is passing, the rewards of faith are everlasting. The promises of God motivated these saints to persevere even when God did not grant the rewards in their lifetime. How did these people fulfill the definition of faith?

Fill in the chart below. Be concrete and specific in your responses. This will help you to apply the principles studied.

Feeling-based actions I have taken	Faith-based actions God is calling me to take

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