Intro: This is the Hall Of Faith, and we learn here that faith is essential. Faith is more than a philosophy of life; it is the very principle of life. The righteous shall live his whole life by faith. The just shall live by faith. He is saved by faith (Acts 16:31), he is kept by faith (1 Peter 1:5 “Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation”), and lives by faith (Gal 2:20). His faith shall be tried many times and in many ways (1 Peter 1:7), but faith will always be vindicated, because it is more than equal to any occasion. Faith knows how to wait on the Lord (Isa 40:31), and it is always victorious (1 John 5:4 “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”)

Faith defies reason, it moves mountains, it does not always face facts, it never gives up. Faith says, “God is working out His perfect will in my life, and I can wait, endure, and suffer trusting that God knows best for me.” Faith does not make anything easy, but it does make ALL THINGS possible. For the child of God faith is our primary defense. Eph 6:16, “Above all taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.”

1. Faith Is A Choice. It’s A New Decision. You will have to choose to believe. So long as you do not, you will remain in unbelief.

2. Faith Is A Change. It’s A New Direction. Before you exercised the measure of faith given you of the Lord, you were an unbeliever, lost, and condemned. Faith in God is a new direction. Believers no longer depend on or trust in themselves or other men, but we have put our confidence in God.

3. Faith Is A Confidence. It’s A New Distinction. The world does not have it. Sinners do not know the peace that faith gives. The lost are carried about fretting everything with no one bigger than themselves to count on. The child of God is distinguished by a confidence in God.

Notice:

I. THE FACTS OF FAITH: v. 1, Faith is the title deed of things hoped for... Your faith is your title deed to eternal life. Just as a title deed is evidence of real estate, so your faith is evidence of your eternal estate in God. Faith is taking God at His Word and asking no questions- v.6. Faith has two sides. One side has to do with the intellect. It is an intellectual conviction that Jesus Christ is God. The other side has to do with the will. It is a volitional surrender of the will to Jesus Christ as master. This is seen when Thomas believed and confessed, “My Lord and my God.” John 20:28. “My Lord”- this was a volitional surrender; “My God”- this was an intellectual conviction. Together you have saving faith. Saving faith is an intellectual conviction that Jesus is God, and a volitional surrender to Him as Lord and master of your life. By faith, the mind trusts in God; the heart responds to the love of God; the will submits to the commands of God; and the life obeys in the service of God. Faith is paradoxical. It goes beyond reason. It believes without understanding “why.” It sings in prison, it glories in tribulation, it chooses to suffer, it accepts every trial as the plan of God.

II. THE FEEDING OF FAITH: You are not born with faith as you need to have it. That is why we need the preaching of the Word. Romans 10:17. The Word feeds your faith, and faith feeds your understanding (v. 3). If you feed your flesh and your doubts, they will grow. But if you will starve the flesh and feed your faith, it will grow. This is what Jesus meant when he said in Matt 17:20-21 “If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this
mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.” In prayer you feed faith, and in fasting you starve the flesh.

III. FAME OF FAITH: v. 2, 39, Faith honors God, and God always honors faith. Notice the record of Hebrews 11 does not recognize Pharaoh, but Moses. It does not honor Lot in the city gate, but Abraham walking with God. It honors not Nebudchadnezzar, but the Three Hebrew Children. It honors not Darius, but Daniel. It honors not Saul, but David. It honors not Ahab, but Elijah. It honors not those who ruled, but those who by overcame! Faith honors God, and God always honors faith. Faith doesn’t make men famous on earth, but faith makes headlines in heaven!

IV. FAVOR OF FAITH: v. 6, You can not please God without faith. Faith pleases him. He calls an unbelieving heart and “evil heart of unbelief” (Heb 3:12). God favors faith. You want God to smile on you? Trust him. When people trusted him they have walked on water, seen thousands fed, watched blind eyes to see, and dead men raised. When people trusted him, we have known our sins to be rolled away! God favors faith!

V. FULNESS OF FAITH: v. 6, Believe that he is. Believe that he will. Many believe in God, but faith believes God, takes him at his Word, believes he rewards those who diligently seek him! Faith enough to believe in God is not sufficient. We must believe God, believe on God, that is to say, we must trust him with our lives.

VI. FAILURE OF FAITH: The failure of faith is realized when faith itself is not exercised. Faith only fails when it is not tried. I Peter 1:7, “That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.” Faith is tried many times and many ways, and it is always more than enough for the task. Faith only fails when it is NOT tried. Matt 13:58, “And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.” Faith never failed when it is tried, because it is tried, but because it is not tried. Put faith to the test. Trust God with all your heart. He will not fail, neither be discouraged (Is 42:4).

Conclusion: Satan is a liar. He does all he can to make you doubt. He loves to see you lose faith. He loves to see you forsake God and church. He loves to see you doubt God and question his power and purpose in your life. But God is pleased with faith. Faith doesn’t always understand, but faith believes when you can not fully understand. John 11:40, “Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?”