



WOODLAND HEIGHTS

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Good News in a Divided World Part #5 – Does Faith Matter?

Small Group Discussion Guide on Hebrews 10:39, 11:1-3, 6

Woodland Heights Christian Church Core Value Connection

This sermon on Hebrews 10:39, 11:1-3,6 aligns with the core values of Biblical Worldview and Biblical Authority at Woodland Heights Christian Church. We believe that God's Word is our guide for life and provides the framework needed to live with hope, peace, joy, and the victory of Christ, and we also believe that a Biblical worldview is necessary if believers are going to see life, suffering, endurance, and eternity through the lens of Scripture.

This message asks the searching question, "Does faith matter?" and answers it by showing that authentic faith in Christ is not sentimental wishful thinking, but the very foundation and future of the believer's life. It challenges us to stop placing our confidence in the fading promises of man and instead anchor ourselves in the God who speaks, creates, preserves, rewards, and carries His people home.

Section 1 – ENCOUNTER

Observing God's Word

Imagine a winter so brutal that every visible sign seems to preach defeat. Soldiers are freezing, disease is spreading, supplies are vanishing, and morale is collapsing in the snow. Yet somewhere beyond the noise of fear and the evidence of hardship, a leader slips away into the woods and bows his knees before the God he cannot see, trusting Him for help, provision, and victory. That is the kind of picture that helps us feel Hebrews 11:1: faith is not denying the winter, but trusting God in the middle of it.

Hebrews 10:39 and 11:1-6 call us back to a better way – to a life anchored by confidence in God, shaped by what He has said, and strengthened by the assurance that He rewards those who seek Him. Let's start our study by anchoring ourselves in Scripture. Read these verses as a group, family, or an individual, letting God's Word sink in. Picture the scene: weary believers under pressure, being reminded not to shrink back in fear, but to live by enduring faith in the God who made all things and faithfully keeps His promises.

Core Questions

- What do you notice about the words assurance, conviction, faith, and reward in this passage? Why is this relevant today?
- What key words, phrases, or themes stand out to you in Hebrews 10:39 and 11:1-6?
- What do these verses teach you about the character of God and the faith that pleases Him?

Section 2 – EXPLORE

As we dig deeper into Hebrews 10:39 and 11:1–6, we discover that faith is not a side issue in the Christian life. It is the difference between shrinking back and pressing on, between building on fear and standing on God’s promises, between destruction and preservation. The sermon’s Big Idea says it plainly: **“Faith Provides the Cornerstone and Confidence of Your Eternal Reward.”**

Hebrews was written to believers who were tired, pressured, and tempted to give up. They had already endured suffering, shame, and loss, and the writer reminds them that faith is what anchors the soul when obedience grows costly and the finish line feels far away. That same reminder matters now, because many believers today are tempted to let headlines, hardship, or human opinion determine how they live instead of the unchanging Word of God.

Lesson #1 – Faith Anchors Your Soul and Gives You Endurance for Your Pursuit of Eternity (Hebrews 10:39)

Hebrews 10:39 presents two trajectories of life. One path is shrinking back – a fearful retreat from Christ when obedience gets costly. The other is authentic faith – a persevering trust that clings to Christ and preserves the soul.

The sermon makes the point that many people place their trust in human strength, public opinion, comfort, or compromise, only to find that those foundations cannot hold them in the storm. Authentic faith, however, anchors believers to the Lord when the winds rise, and gives endurance for the long pursuit of eternity.

- What does “shrinking back” look like in real life today?
- Where are people most tempted to retreat from obedience because of fear, pressure, or discouragement?
- How have you seen genuine faith anchor someone in the middle of suffering or uncertainty?

Lesson #2 – Faith Gives You Confidence in the God Who Created What You Cannot See (Hebrews 11:1–3)

Hebrews 11:1 teaches that faith is “the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” The sermon carefully explains that faith is not pretending hardship is unreal, nor is it closing your eyes to reality. It is looking at all that you can see and still ordering your life around the God you cannot see because His Word is more solid than the visible world.

Hebrews 11:3 deepens that truth by reminding us that the universe was created by the word of God. This means faith makes sense because reality itself begins with God, not with chaos, chance, or human imagination. The believer can trust the unseen God because everything seen exists by His command.

- How does Hebrews 11:1 correct common misunderstandings about faith?
- Why does it matter that the universe was created by the word of God?
- What visible circumstance in your life is currently testing your ability to trust the unseen God?

Lesson #3 – Authentic Faith Precedes and Produces a Walk that Honors the Lord (Hebrews 11:6)

Hebrews 11:6 leaves no middle ground: “without faith it is impossible to please him.” The sermon highlights two essential truths in this verse. First, authentic faith believes that God exists. Second,

authentic faith believes that God rewards those who seek Him – not mainly with earthly ease, but with His presence, favor, salvation, and eternal joy.

This means true faith does more than agree with Christian ideas. It drives a life of pursuit, obedience, prayer, endurance, and hope because it believes God Himself is worth seeking above everything the world offers. Faith that honors the Lord always precedes and produces a walk that reflects His worth.

- Why is it not enough simply to believe that God exists?
- What does it mean to believe that God “rewards those who seek him”?
- How does authentic faith change the way a person prays, obeys, suffers, and perseveres?

Section 3 – EMBRACE

Applying God’s Word

Go deeper into the Word of God by applying what you’ve learned to your life today. Reflect on these action steps and discuss how you can live out the truths from Hebrews 10:39, 11:1–3, 6.

Examine Your Foundation

Ask yourself honestly: what am I most tempted to trust when life becomes unstable – my own strength, other people, comfort, money, emotion, or Christ?

- Write down one area where your confidence has drifted from the Lord, and surrender it to Him this week in prayer.

Choose Endurance Over Retreat

Hebrews 10:39 reminds believers not to shrink back. Identify one place where fear, fatigue, or disappointment has tempted you to retreat spiritually.

- Take one concrete step of perseverance this week, such as returning to daily Scripture reading, renewing a commitment to prayer, or re-engaging with your church family.

Practice Unseen Trust

Faith lives by the assurance of what is hoped for and the conviction of what is not seen. Choose one promise of God’s Word and meditate on it each day this week, especially in the area where you feel most uncertain.

- When fear rises, answer it with what God has said rather than with what your circumstances seem to shout.

Seek God as Your Reward

Hebrews 11:6 teaches that God rewards those who seek Him. Spend intentional time this week not merely asking God for things, but seeking His presence through prayer, worship, and Scripture.

- Ask yourself: do I want God primarily for what He can give me, or because He is my greatest treasure?

Memorize and Reflect

Memorize the sermon’s key verse, Hebrews 11:1 (ESV): “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

- Reflect on how this verse strengthens you to face uncertainty with confidence in Christ rather than fear of the unknown. Share with your group how this truth challenges or encourages you in your present season.

Closing Challenge and Prayer

In a divided world, faith is not optional decoration for the Christian life; it is the lifeline that anchors you to Christ and carries you forward when everything around you feels unstable. Hebrews calls us not to shrink back, not to build on what is fading, and not to live by fear, but to trust the God who made the universe, rewards those who seek Him, and preserves His people to the end.

As a group, pray for one another to live with authentic faith that does not retreat under pressure. Ask the Lord to strengthen weary hearts, re-anchor drifting souls, and help each person build their foundation and future on Christ alone.

- Father, thank You for reminding us through Your Word that authentic faith is not wishful thinking, but confident trust in the God who is real, who speaks, who creates, and who rewards those who seek Him. Forgive me for the times I have placed my confidence in what is visible, temporary, and unreliable rather than in You. Teach me not to shrink back, but to endure with steady a heart and persevering faith. Anchor my soul in Christ, strengthen me in the storms of life, and use my life to show a watching world that You are worthy of trust. In Jesus' name, Amen.