

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

July 15, 2013

The Test of Faith

HEBREWS 11:1-3 NLT – (1) Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see. (2) Through their faith, the people in days of old earned a good reputation. (3) By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God's command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen.

Faith is acting on what we believe. Faith is believing in what is true. Faith has two elements: (1) being convinced of the truth, being certain of reality, having evidence of unseen things, and (2) believing, hoping in, embracing, seizing the truth.

There are people of faith who died without receiving all that God had promised, but they never lost their vision of heaven (a better place, a heavenly homeland). Many Christians today become frustrated and defeated because their needs, wants, expectations and demands are not immediately met when they accept Christ as Savior. They become impatient and want to quit. Are you discouraged because the achievement of your goal seems far away? Take courage from these heroes of faith mentioned in **Hebrews 11**. They lived and died without seeing the fruit of their faith on earth and yet continued to believe.

HEBREWS 11:36-39 NLT – (36) Some were jeered at, and their backs were cut open with whips. Others were chained in prisons. (37) Some died by stoning, some were sawed in half, and others were killed with the sword. Some went about wearing skins of sheep and goats, destitute and oppressed and mistreated. (38) They were too good for this world, wandering over deserts and mountains, hiding in caves and holes in the ground. (39) All these people earned a good reputation because of their faith, yet none of them received all that God had promised.

Were they deceived then? Are we deceived now? No!!! The best has yet to come!

SCRIPTURE READING

ROMANS 3:28

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."

July 1, 2013

