

HOPE-FULL

Hope-Full (Week 4)

Hebrews 11:1-31, 39-40

OPEN

What have you been learning about *hope*? Has your concept and understanding of hope been challenged or grown in some way?

Defining Hope

How does Hebrews 11:1 define faith? What role does hope play?

Do you like this definition or does it challenge you in some way?

DISCUSS

Read Hebrews 11:3-31

- What were the actions accompanied by faith?
- What do you notice about the range of characters commended in this passage?
- What accompanied the faith of every person mentioned?

Read Hebrews 11:39-41

- For what was each person in this passage commended?
- How do we (us today) fit into this passage?
- What is different with us than with those in the Old Testament story?

Respond and discuss this quote by N.T. Wright in *Surprised by Hope*:

“Every act of love, gratitude, and kindness; every work of art or music inspired by the love of God and delight in the beauty of his creation...every act of care and nurture, of comfort and support...every deed that spreads the gospel, builds up the church, embraces and embodies holiness rather than corruption, and makes the name of Jesus honored in the world — all of this will find its way, through the resurrecting power of God, into the new creation that God will one day make.”

How does this quote connect to our hope when we consider 1 Cor 15:58?

How can your hope and faith be activated in:

Justice: *“The intention of God, expressed from Genesis to Revelation, to set the whole world right.” — N.T. Wright*

Beauty: *“The sweetest thing in all my life has been the longing to find the place where all the beauty came from.” — C.S. Lewis*

Evangelism: *“Let eloquence be flung to the dogs rather than souls be lost. What we want is to win souls. They are not won by flowery speeches.” — Charles Haddon Spurgeon*

NEXT STEPS

- Reflect on how your faith needs to be activated because of the hope you have in Christ.
- Read and reflect on Hebrews 11.
- What will you do this week to live intentionally through your own faith, hope, and love.