

Oh Grace, How Great a Debtor

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Subtitle: Something Better That Lasts Forever

Key Text: Hebrews 11 (NASB 1995)

Supporting Texts: Hebrews 11:13–16; Matthew 24:35; Philippians 3:17–20; John 14:1–3

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cbNRqkcZjWI>

Introduction

- When faith feels weak or courage runs low, Hebrews 11 gives strength and perspective.
- This chapter is often called the “Hall of Faith” because it records men and women who endured suffering, loss, rejection, and danger for God.
- None of them lived easy lives. Many suffered more in a day than most of us suffer in a lifetime.
- The theme before us is this: **Something better that lasts forever.**
- What made them endure? What kept them faithful? What made them obey when obedience cost them everything?

Thesis:

God’s people endure hardship because they are looking for something better, something eternal, something God Himself has prepared.

I. Faith Is Confidence in What God Has Promised (Hebrews 11:1–6)

- A. Faith is “the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”
- B. The men and women of old gained God’s approval by faith.
- C. Faith accepts God’s word about things we cannot see.
- D. Without faith it is impossible to please God.

Teaching Point:

Faith is not guesswork. Faith is trust in the character and promises of God.

Callout — Application:

If we only live for what we can see, we will never live for what truly lasts.

II. God's People Lived for Promises They Did Not Yet Receive (Hebrews 11:7–12)

- A. Noah obeyed God and built the ark, even though he had never seen a flood.
- B. Abraham obeyed and left his home, not knowing where he was going.
- C. He lived in tents, waiting for a city built by God.
- D. Sarah trusted God's promise even when it seemed impossible.

Teaching Point:

Faith moves forward even when the destination is not yet visible.

III. They Confessed They Were Strangers and Exiles (Hebrews 11:13–16)

- A. "All these died in faith, without receiving the promises."
- B. They saw the promises from a distance and welcomed them.
- C. They confessed they were strangers and exiles on the earth.
- D. They were not looking back to the land they left.
- E. They were looking for a better country—a heavenly one.

Teaching Point:

Christians live differently because this world is not our home.

Callout — Warning:

If this world feels like home, heaven will not be your priority.

IV. They Endured Because They Were Looking to the Reward (Hebrews 11:17–27)

- A. Abraham was willing to offer Isaac, trusting God even with what he loved most.
- B. Moses refused the treasures of Egypt.
- C. He chose suffering with God's people over the passing pleasures of sin.
- D. He considered the reproach of Christ greater riches than Egypt's wealth.
- E. He endured as seeing Him who is unseen.

Teaching Point:

Eternal reward outweighs temporary comfort.

V. Faith Produces Courage, Obedience, and Endurance (Hebrews 11:28–38)

- A. By faith:
 - The Red Sea was crossed.
 - Jericho's walls fell.
 - Kingdoms were conquered.
 - Lions' mouths were shut.
- B. Others suffered:
 - Mocking and scourging
 - Chains and imprisonment
 - Stoning and being sawn in two
 - Death by the sword
- C. The world was not worthy of them.

Teaching Point:

Faith does not promise ease. Faith promises God's approval and God's future.

VI. God Has Provided Something Better (Hebrews 11:39–40)

- A. They gained approval through faith but did not receive the final promise.
- B. God had planned something better for us.

- C. Their hope and our hope meet in Christ and in eternity.

Teaching Point:

The best is not behind us. The best is ahead of us.

VII. Our Citizenship Is in Heaven

- A. Jesus said heaven and earth will pass away, but His words will not (Matthew 24:35).
- B. Our citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20).
- C. We are not waiting for a refurbished world.
- D. We are waiting for a city prepared by God Himself (John 14:1–3).

Callout — Illustration:

God is not remodeling this world. He is preparing a perfect home for His people.

VIII. Living for What Lasts Forever

- A. Many Christian practices only make sense if heaven is real.
- B. Obedience, sacrifice, worship, faithfulness, and holiness all point to eternity.
- C. God's people endure because they know where they are going.

Teaching Point:

Grace makes us debtors—not to this world, but to God who promised us eternity.

Conclusion / Call to Action

- The people of Hebrews 11 lived, suffered, and died looking for something better.
- They were faithful because they trusted God's promise of eternity.
- Heaven is real. Judgment is real. Eternity is real.
- If you are not a Christian:

- Believe in Christ
- Repent of sin
- Confess His name
- Be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins
- If you are a Christian:
 - Do not live for what fades
 - Live for what lasts forever
 - Set your hope fully on the promises of God

Final Call:

Do not trade eternity for the temporary. Live by faith, and live for what lasts forever.

Slide Deck — “Oh Grace, How Great a Debtor” (12 Slides)

Slide 1 — Title

Oh Grace, How Great a Debtor

Something Better That Lasts Forever

Hebrews 11

Design intent: Light background, dark text, high contrast, reverent and serious tone.

Slide 2 — Why Hebrews 11 Matters

Main content:

- A chapter of faith and endurance
- Written to strengthen weary believers
- Points us to what lasts forever

Design intent: Clean, readable, encouraging tone.

Slide 3 — What Is Faith?

Main content:

- Assurance of things hoped for
 - Conviction of things not seen
- Scripture: Hebrews 11:1
Design intent: Teaching-focused, simple and clear.

Slide 4 — Faith Obeys Before It Sees

Main content:

- Noah built
 - Abraham went
 - Sarah trusted
- Design intent: Hopeful, forward-looking tone.

Slide 5 — Strangers and Exiles

Main content:

- Not at home in this world
 - Looking for a better country
- Scripture: Hebrews 11:13–16
Design intent: Reflective, eternal focus.

Slide 6 — Choosing God Over Comfort

Main content:

- Moses refused Egypt
 - Chose suffering with God's people
- Scripture: Hebrews 11:24–26
Design intent: Serious, decision-focused tone.

Slide 7 — Faith in Action

Main content:

- Seas crossed
- Walls fell
- Kingdoms conquered

Design intent: Strong, confident, victorious theme.

Slide 8 — Faith in Suffering

Main content:

- Mocked
- Imprisoned
- Killed
- The world was not worthy of them

Scripture: Hebrews 11:36–38

Design intent: Sobering, respectful, reverent.

Slide 9 — Something Better

Main content:

- They did not receive it yet
- God prepared something better

Scripture: Hebrews 11:39–40

Design intent: Hopeful, forward-looking tone.

Slide 10 — Our Citizenship Is in Heaven

Main content:

- This world will pass away
- Heaven is our home

Scripture: Philippians 3:20; Matthew 24:35

Design intent: Clear, eternal perspective.

Slide 11 — God Prepares the Home

Main content:

- Not a refurbished world
- A place prepared by God
Scripture: John 14:1–3
Design intent: Comforting, confident, peaceful.

Slide 12 — Live for What Lasts

Main content:

- Do not trade eternity for the temporary
 - Live by faith
 - Hope in God's promises
Design intent: Call-to-action, encouraging, high contrast.
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