

Trusting is being confident of what we hope for, convinced about things we do not see.² It was for this that Scripture attested the merit of the people of old.³ By **trusting**, we understand that the universe was created through a spoken word of God, so that what is seen did not come into being out of existing phenomena. — *Hebrews 11:1-3 Complete Jewish Bible*

We believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. — *The Apostles' Creed*

Hebrews 11 is where we can visit that great Hall of Faith — think of Canton, OH for the NFL or Cooperstown, NY for MLB. You can walk in the door and see the likeness of people like: Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, and Moses. Then you get to a long list of other heroes of the faith (Hall of Faithers) whose names are inscribed on the wall. It's quite a trip!

I often read from the Complete Jewish Bible. It gives me yet another fresh hearing of the Word of the Lord. And, in this text the CJB translates the word "faith" as "trusting" and consequently the meaning is really highlighted. For example, Hebrews 11 says...

²⁹ By **trusting**, they walked through the Red Sea as through dry land; when the Egyptians tried to do it, the sea swallowed them up.

³⁰ By **trusting**, the walls of Jericho fell down

³¹ By **trusting**, Rachab the prostitute welcomed the spies

³² What more should I say? There isn't time to tell about Gid'on, Barak, Shimshon, Yiftach, David, Sh'mu'el and the prophets; ³³ who, through **trusting**, conquered kingdoms, worked righteousness, received what was promised, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, had their weakness turned to strength, grew mighty in battle and routed foreign armies.

Faith — We have often dumbed down faith to mere belief. This has been a problem since before I was born. However, the heart of faith is **trust**. Faith is more about a **trust** that what you claim to believe in actually works.

Trust — **Trusting** reveals what you believe. To trust something or someone contains belief. You can't **trust** in what you don't believe in. But, you can claim to believe in something that is never tested or ... **trusted**.

For example, I believe the United States sent people to the moon July 20, 1969. I saw it on TV as an 8 year old kid. I watched subsequent lunar landings. I believe they happened. But, that belief does not go to the point of needing to explicitly **trust** that our nation has done this before. Why? Because I'm not getting on a rocket and going to the moon.

The point is that **trust** contains or requires belief, but belief doesn't necessarily express itself in risky **trust**. **Trust** pushes belief to get up from its recliner and do something. **Trust is belief in action**.

The people in Hebrews 11 went beyond mere belief and expressed real **trust**. They walked through the Red Sea. They marched into enemy territory (the land of giants) with trumpets blaring declaring their presence. The only way they did that was by **trusting**.

The leaders **trusted** God. The people **trusted** God. The people **trusted** their leaders and **trusted** their leaders had heard from God. The leaders **trusted** their people and **trusted** they, too, had the inner conviction that God was directing this entire mission.

Where did this kind of **trust** come from? Hebrews 12:1-2 said it...

¹ So then, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us, too, put aside every impediment — that is, the sin which easily hampers our forward movement — and keep running with endurance in the contest set before us, ² looking away to the Initiator and Completer of that **trusting**, Yeshua — who, in exchange for obtaining the joy set before him, endured execution on a stake as a criminal, scorning the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Jesus **trusted** the Father. By the presence of Jesus in us, which we know as The Holy Spirit, we can express that same kind of **trust**. Jesus is the Initiator of our **trusting**. Jesus will see our **trusting** through to the end.

What is requiring you to **trust** ... not just believe? What action are you engaging in that reflects risky belief? How do you need to put your belief into action?

No, we don't just believe in "God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord...." We **TRUST!**