

## Through Faith We Understand

“Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.” (Hebrews 11:3).

Hebrews 11 expresses many powerful points regarding faith. Opening with a definition of the term itself, the chapter goes on through the ensuing 39 verses to present a practical presentation of faith via clear statements regarding it and examples of real men and women who demonstrated it. The sincere reader cannot help but come away from a reading of Hebrews 11 with a renewed faith and a greater determination to walk by that faith on a daily basis. The purpose for the Holy Spirit inspiring the words of this particular chapter is seen in the opening verses of Hebrews 12. Seeing that these men and women endured the challenges of the world by faith, we too should press on and “run with patience the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1).

Going back to the verse cited in the opening of this article, let’s take a few moments to notice a connection between two words that some would consider to be at opposite ends of the spectrum. The first word is “faith” and the second is “understand.” “Faith” is defined in Hebrews 11:1. “Understand” is from a Greek word that means, “to perceive with the mind, think upon, heed, ponder, consider.” In verse three the writer is referencing the creation of the world. He declares that God is the Creator of all. That’s quite a bold statement. Can we really know that God is the Creator and, if so, how can we know it?

There are countless verses in the Bible that declare God to be the Creator. Genesis 1:1 says, “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” Psalm 33:6 states, “By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.” Verse nine of the same Psalm adds, “For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.” Colossian 1:16-17 affirms, “For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: and he is before all things, and by him all things consist.” Space does not permit additional scripture references but personal study of the Bible’s teaching regarding God as Creator is profitable.

What does knowing that the Bible teaches that God is the Creator have to do with faith? Romans 10:17 says, “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” God’s Word is the basis of our faith. All that we know about Him comes from His revelation which is the book we call the Bible. God’s revelation is not just IN the Bible. It IS the Bible. How, then, do we know that God is the Creator? It is by faith. What is the basis of this faith? It is the Bible, the written Word of God. In other words, if we are to know anything about creation and the Creator, we will need to go to the words of the Creator Himself. Were any of us there at the creation? Of course not, but still we can come to conclusions about the creation and the One who “framed” it, and they can be accurate and rock-solid conclusions. Our education about the Creator does not come from philosophy books, science books or other man-made writings. Through faith we understand about the creation and the Creator.

The Bible being the source of faith regarding the framing of the worlds, can we truly know that it presents the truth or are we merely taking a “shot in the dark” when it comes to our convictions regarding the origin of the world? Atheists and agnostics write off the “creationist” position as mere faith, as though faith were nothing more than a childish, uneducated wish for something greater than ourselves. Never mind the fact that their system of evolution is itself faith-based. None of them was present at the creation either. There is no proof of the theory of evolution. It has to be taken on faith in men’s conclusions. On the other hand, faith in God produces understanding. Through faith (that comes from study of God’s Word) we understand (perceive with the mind) the truth about creation. Faith and understanding are combined with the former leading to the latter.

Knowing that faith which comes from the Word of God leads to understanding or knowledge on the matter of creation, what other understanding might we gain through a diligent study of the source of true faith? Dare we say that through faith we could understand the truth about salvation, acceptable worship, Divinely-authorized daily living and “all things that pertain unto life and godliness”? (II Peter 1:3). Jesus prayed, “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” (John

17:17). He said, “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:32). The truth can be known. “Through faith we understand...”

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