

SERMON SUMMARY

Date: January 7, 2007	11:00 am Worship Service
Preacher: Rev. Donald Lawrence	Reference: Hebrews 11: 1-16
Topic: People After God's Own Heart...Saluting The Pioneers	

In the month of January, we celebrate the birthday of one of this nation's greatest heroes, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In reflecting on our heroes, one pertinent question to be asked is, how best can we salute our heroes? The Book of Hebrews is exceptional in many ways:

- (a) Its beginning – usual greeting missing
- (b) Authorship – debate mainly because of unique style
- (c) Wide use of the Old Testament
- (d) Emphasis on Supremacy of Christ.

Hebrews 11:1-16 falls in the final section of the book, which discusses the meaning and importance of Faith. Here the author shows the:

Praise, Position, Preservation of Name and the Paradise conferred on the Person of Faith.

In verses 1-6, we are given examples of those who were given Honor because of Faith.

Faith is Confidence	Faith brings Commendation	Faith is Compulsory
In what is to be manifested via God (verses 1-2)	Abel: Commendation & Currency (verse 4)	To Please & Perceive God (verse 6a and 6b)
That what is made came via God (verse 3)	Enoch: Commendation & being Caught Up (verse 5)	To be Praised by God (verse 6c)

This is a call to walk in the Way of Commendation. We need to watch how we perceive things around us because Living by Faith gives us The Right View.

In verses 7-10, we see examples of those who were given Right of Heirs because of Faith.

- ✦ Noah: Obeyed in Holy Fear because of Faith (verse 7a). Consequently, he became heir of righteousness through faith (verse 7b)
- ✦ Abraham: Obeyed in Holy Following, not knowing where he was going (verse 8b) and not living a settled life (verse 9a and 9b). Consequently, he became joint heir of promise to be revealed (verses 9-10).

This is a call to walk in the Way of Confirmation. As a result, we need to watch what we are pursuing with the agenda we have because Living by Faith gives us The Right Vigor.

Verses 11-12 shows examples of those given Heirs because of Faith. Abraham and Sarah trusted in God's Character and not in their condition (verse 11). They gave testimony to Almighty God and not to their age (verse 12). This example speaks of a call to walk in the Way of Continuance. This demands of us to watch who we are producing to follow after us because Living by Faith gives us The Right Value.

Finally, we see examples of those who were given Heaven because of Faith in verses 13-16. Such persons:

- ✦ Lived by Faith to end of Earthly Life (verse 13a)
- ✦ Accepted Promise by Faith (verse 13b)
- ✦ Admitted their Status by Faith (verse 13c)
- ✦ Aim fixed on Heaven by Faith (verses 14-16a)

✦ Acknowledged by God because of their Faith (verse 16b)

This is a call to walk in the Way of Consummation, which demands of us to always watch what pre-occupies our minds. The fact is that Living by Faith gives us The Right Vision.

The Call of the Pioneers of Faith to us is...“Learn the Way of Faith, for there is no other way to Please God.” We need to answer this call in the affirmative and so extend the Heritage of Faith.