

SESSION 4 : Can't I earn my salvation by doing good works?

- No, God justifies me by his grace through faith in Christ alone.

Daily Scripture Reading: *Hebrews 11 could be titled "By Faith." It defines faith and gives examples of people from the Old Testament who trusted God and his promise to send the Messiah, and yet did not live to see its fulfillment. The chapter is broken up into small portions to read each day. Spend some time reflecting on how to apply these verses to your life.*

Monday: Read Hebrews 11:1-7

- How is faith described in verse 1? What does this mean in your own words?
- Do you believe verse 3? Why or why not?
- Pray, asking God to give you understanding of what he is revealing about himself in these verses.

Tuesday: Read Hebrews 11:8-19

- In these verses, what did God do for Abraham? What did Abraham do? List them.
- What do verses 13–16 have to do with your worldview—how you view yourself, others, your circumstances, etc.?

Thursday: Read Hebrews 11:20-31

- How did God show his faithfulness to his people?
- Are you making the same choice and commitment that Moses made—"choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin"? Pray that God would give you strength and power to make that choice when confronted with temptation to sin.

Friday: Read Hebrews 11:32-40

- All the people listed in this chapter were commended for their faith. Although some of them saw some of God's promises fulfilled, many did not, and they were still waiting for the promised Messiah. How did some of these people suffer for their faith in God?
- How do these verses encourage you? comfort you? challenge you?

Saturday: Read Hebrews 12:1-4

- What do you learn about Jesus in these verses?
- What weights and sins cling closely to you? What specific things can you do to stop doing them or lay them aside?
- In what areas of your life are you weary or fainthearted? Tell Jesus about them and ask him to give you strength and encouragement to stay faithful to him.

Wrap it up in prayer

- Thank God for the ways he is faithful to you.
- Ask God to increase your faith in him and his promises.
- Read Hebrews 12:1–3 as a prayer, changing the personal pronouns to "I" or "me."