

**THE STUDY OF HEBREWS—YEAR 2**  
**LESSON 11- QUESTIONS**  
**HEBREWS 11:13-16**  
**I AM AN EXILE LOOKING FOR A BETTER COUNTRY**

As you begin your study this week pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal truth and wisdom.

Faith is illustrated in this chapter as a firm belief that God will carry out His promises in spite of seemingly contrary circumstances. The emphasis of faith is not on the internal thoughts and feelings of the people mentioned but on their active response to God's truth. Faith gives us an inner assurance that the unseen world and unrealized promises of God are perfect and true. Faith has its solid basis in God's Word. Our confidence rests on and our actions are motivated by God's authority.

**Read Hebrews 11:13-16**

1. There is an excellent threefold definition of biblical faith in Hebrews 11:13. What are the three characteristics of genuine faith that the faithful believers modeled?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Might we say, that this threefold definition of faith can apply to us today? Why or why not? Please explain. \_\_\_\_\_

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3. What were the promises that the Patriarchs did not receive?

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4. An *exile* or *alien* can be defined as one *who journeys in a foreign land or, one living among a people not one's own*. Would you say that this definition refers to your life here on earth?

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Abraham, Isaac and Jacob lived as strangers and exiles who desired "*a better country*" (11:16). How should these examples of living as strangers and exiles who desired a

better country be both reassuring and convicting to you personally?

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How would their examples have been both reassuring and convicting to the author's original audience?

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5. Read 1 Peter 2:9-12. How does the apostle Peter describe us as believers and our life here on earth? \_\_\_\_\_

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How does Peter's admonition to "*abstain from fleshly lusts*" play a part in us being exiles and strangers here? Explain.

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How might we apply these verses to the current state of America today? How should we act? How should we love? Give examples.

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6. From the following scripture, what additional insights do you receive when considering our life here as strangers and exiles?

1 Pet. 1:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_

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Phil. 1:27 \_\_\_\_\_

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Phil. 3:20-21 \_\_\_\_\_

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Col. 3:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_  
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Eph. 2:4-6 \_\_\_\_\_  
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Eph. 2:18-19 \_\_\_\_\_  
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7. Considering your responses to the above question, what attitudes about your life would change if you were to continually remind yourself that you are a *“stranger and exile on this earth?”* \_\_\_\_\_  
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8. Verse 15 states that if these believers had been thinking of that country they had departed from as their true home, they would have had opportunity to return to that country. The longing of Abraham and his descendants for the “better country” (11:16), is a picture of the longing of all believers for God’s kingdom. What encouragement do you find in the following scripture as we *exiles* await the “better country.” How should this awareness affect your priorities and actions?

Rom. 8:23-25 \_\_\_\_\_  
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2 Cor. 4:16-18 \_\_\_\_\_  
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2 Cor. 5:6-9 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Eph. 1:11-14 \_\_\_\_\_  
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9. Living by faith is the key to overcoming the world. First John 5:4 says, *“For whoever has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.”* What does it mean to overcome the world, and how is faith the key to this victory?

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10. What is God's attitude toward those who through faith desire His better, heavenly country? (Heb. 11:16b) See also Heb. 2:11. \_\_\_\_\_

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What has God prepared for these Old Testament saints, and for us, to meet the longing all believers have? (Heb. 11:16c)

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How does Heb. 11:10 and Rev. 21:2 describe this?

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Read John 14:1-3. What does the Lord Jesus say to comfort us while we await the better, heavenly country?

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11. John Calvin writes that *"there is no place for us among God's children, except we renounce the world, and that there will be for us no inheritance in heaven, except we become pilgrims on earth."* Is your heart set on this world or on your heavenly citizenship? Will you *"die in faith"* as the believers of Hebrews 11 have? How? What do you have to do to die in faith?

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