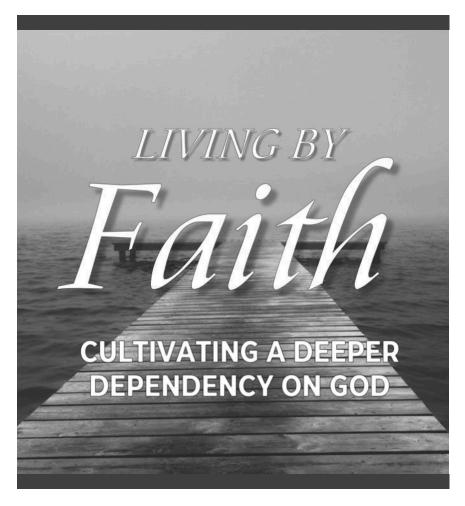
# DISCIPLINES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

## LIVING BY Faith

CULTIVATING A DEEPER DEPENDENCY ON GOD







### INTRODUCTION

#### "Open my mind and let me discover the wonders of your Law ."

Psalm 119:18 (CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH VERSION)

Happy New Year! What better way to start the year out right than spending time each day in the Word of God! This *Winter Issue* will provide you with companion studies for the next eleven weeks of study in Hebrews. It is our prayer that these little booklets will help you in your daily devotions, as well as give you a place for notes from the Sunday morning messages and your community group studies.

We do this intentionally to help you remember and apply the truths that we learn each week. The more time you spend thinking about something—and the more ways you interact with that truth—the more likely you will be to implement it into your life. It is true that a person learns through repetition, but that's not exactly the goal in doing this. When each of these reinforce the other, it allows us to experience different levels of comprehension, which increases our over-all understanding of Scripture and deepens our spiritual growth!

It is God's plan for your life to be transformed into the likeness of His Son—Jesus Christ. In Ephesians 4, Paul told us to "grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ" (4:15). The combined efforts of listening to the weekly message, participating in the weekly community groups and working through the studies in this booklet will help you do just that—mature in your faith in Jesus Christ!

#### **INTRODUCTION TO HEBREWS**

The Book of Hebrews is "a letter written by an unknown Christian to show how Jesus Christ had replaced Judaism as God's perfect revelation of Himself. Hebrews begins with a marvelous tribute to the person of Christ (1:1-3), and throughout the epistle the author weaves warning with doctrine to encourage his readers to hold fast to Jesus as the great High Priest of God. The author makes extensive use of Old Testament quotations and images to show that Jesus is the supreme revelation of God and the all-sufficient Mediator between God and humankind." (Excerpt from *Nelson's Student Bible Dictionary*)

#### **NEW SERMON SERIES IN HEBREWS**

Our series for this winter session will not focus on the entirety of the Book of Hebrews; rather, we will begin our studies in Hebrews 10:19 and continue through Hebrews 12:17. The goal is to complete this study in eleven weeks (January 7—March 17).

The primary focus of these studies is the concept of faith. Faith is the "conviction or belief respecting man's relationship to God" according to Larry Pierce's *Outline of Biblical Usage*. This section of Hebrews (10:19–12:17) is a call to faith and endurance.

The author begins this section by encouraging his fellow believers to "draw near" to God and to help one another live the life of faith that He is calling each of us to live. He also stipulates the consequences of failing to live that life of faith. Chapter 11, known as the "Faith Chapter," provides the reader with numerous examples of what it looks like to live a life of faith. We will spend about half of our time looking at these examples and their implications for our lives today.

Our series will conclude with some practical instruction about what it takes to live a life of faith in the twenty-first century—focus on Jesus, suffer to produce holiness, and persevere in this call to live by faith!

#### WINTER 2024 RECHARGE STUDIES

In this issue of *Recharge*, we will be doing something different than what we have done before. Typically, we provide you with some sort of inductive, Bible study to guide you into a deeper understanding of the sermon text. To be blunt, I believe that discovery-style Bible study is the most effective way for an individual to learn—this is why I emphasize the question-and-answer style of studying God's Word so often. Having said that, I also believe there is value in reading devotional literature, especially when you take the time to reflect on your reading.

So, that's what we're going to do in this issue. Rather than having series of inductive studies, you will be reading a forty-day devotional book by Bill Elliff called *The Line of Faith*. Bill has had an influential role in my personal, spiritual development, and I want to introduce him to you!

As you work through this book, you will notice that each week of study contains:

- TWO pages to take notes from each Sunday's sermon.
- A QR code link to the YouVersion study notes for each week.
- A page for notes/prayer concerns from your Community group.
- A Bible reading plan to SOAP Journal through the passages that correlate with the passage from our weekly sermon text.
  - We have included two reading plans to choose from in this *issue*. The primary plan will directly relate to the weekly sermon. The alternative plan will take you through the Book of Hebrews, section by section.
  - Instructions for SOAP Journaling and a Table of Contents for your journal entries are located on pages 71-72.
- And two pages to record your reflections from your readings in *The Line of Faith* by Bill Elliff.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or one of our pastors. Our prayer is that these studies will provide you with a daily *Recharge* for your life!

Pastor Wade Allen

WEEK 1	JANUARY 7, 2024
Sermon Title:	Confidence of Living by Faith
Sermon Text:	Hebrews 10:19-25
Speaker:	Wade Allen
Sermon Notes:	





Location:

Date:

Prayer Concerns:

WEEK 1		SOAP JOURNA
Bible Reading:	Hebrews 3-4	
Alternative Reading:	Hebrews 1-2	
Title:		Date:
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Reflections from "Day 1—The Line of Faith"

Reflections from "Day 2—Simple Moment | Profound Faith"

WEEK 1

Reflections from "Day 3—The Progression of Your Faith"

Reflections from "Day 4—Testing"

WEEK 2	JANUARY 14, 2024
Sermon Title:	Consequences of NOT Living by Faith
Sermon Text:	Hebrews 10:26-31
Speaker:	Wade Allen
Sermon Notes:	





Location:

Date:

Prayer Concerns:

WEEK 2

Bible Reading:

Alternative Reading: Hebrews 3:1—4:13

James 1

Title:

Date:

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Reflections from "Day 5—God's Final Exam"

Reflections from "Day 6—Making Room for God"

Reflections from "Day 7—Missing the Obvious"

Reflections from "Day 8—Does He Find Faith in You?"

WEEK 3	JANUARY 21, 2024
Sermon Title:	Challenge to Persevere in Living by Faith
Sermon Text:	Hebrews 10:32-39
Speaker:	Wade Allen
Sermon Notes:	





Location:

Date:

Prayer Concerns:

Wеек 3		SC	DAP JOURNAL
Bible Reading:	2 Corinthians 4-5		
Alternative Reading:	Hebrews 4:14—5:10		
Title:		Date:	
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Reflections from "Day 9—Impossible Possibilities"

Reflections from "Day 10—Fear and Faith"

WEEK 3

Reflections from "Day 11—The Critical Knowledge for a Leader"

Reflections from "Day 12—All the More"

WEEK 4	JANUARY 28, 2024
Sermon Title:	Explanation of Living by Faith
Sermon Text:	Hebrews 11:1-3
Speaker:	Wade Allen
Sermon Notes:	





Location:

Date:

Prayer Concerns:

WEEK 4	
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Bible Reading:

Alternative Reading:

Hebrews 5:11-6:12

James 2

Title:

Date:

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Reflections from "Day 13—How to Always Make the Right Decisions"

Reflections from "Day 14—The Sufficiency of Daily Grace"

WEEK 4

THE LINE OF FAITH BY BILL ELLIFF

Reflections from **"Day 15—The Most Important Question** in Your Life Right Now"

Reflections from "Day 16—Imitatable Faith"

WEEK 5	FEBRUARY 4, 2024
Sermon Title:	Demonstration of Living by Faith—Pre-Flood
Sermon Text:	Hebrews 11:4-7
Speaker:	Wade Allen
Sermon Notes:	





Location:

Date:

Prayer Concerns:

WEEK 5		SOAP JOUR	NAL
Bible Reading:	Hebrews 6		
Alternative Reading:	Hebrews 6:13-7:28		
Title:		Date:	

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Reflections from "Day 17—Preparatory Faith"

Reflections from **"Day 18—The Necessary Preparation for Our Most Important Job"**  Reflections from "An Incomplete Recipe"

Reflections from "Day 20—Backing Up on God "

WEEK 6	FEBRUARY 11, 2024
Sermon Title:	Demonstration of Living by Faith—Patriarchs
Sermon Text:	Hebrews 11:8-12, 17-22
Speaker:	David McEuen
Sermon Notes:	





COMMUNITY GROUP

Location:

Date:

Prayer Concerns:

**Study Title:** 

WEEK 6		SOAP JOURNAL
Bible Reading:	Romans 4 & Genesis 22	
Alternative Reading:	Hebrews 8	
Title:	Date:	
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Reflections from "Day 21—Believing the Unseen"

Reflections from "Day 22—God's Comprehensive Word"

Reflections from "Day 23—Are You Refusing?"

Reflections from "Day 24—The Daily Relevance of God's Word"

WEEK 7	FEBRUARY 18, 2024
Sermon Title:	Demonstration of Living by Faith—Exodus
Sermon Text:	Hebrews 11:23-31
Speaker:	Wade Allen
Sermon Notes:	



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COMMUNITY GROUP

Location:

Date:

Prayer Concerns:

**Study Title:** 

WEEK 7		SOAP JOURNA	L
Bible Reading:	Exodus 1-2		
Alternative Reading:	Hebrews 9		
Title:		Date:	
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Reflections from "Day 25—Your Leprosy Is Showing"

Reflections from "Day 26—The Obedience of Faith"

THE LINE OF FAITH BY BILL ELLIFF

Reflections from "Day 27—The Constant, Glorious Purpose of Our Current, Grievous Problems"

Reflections from "Day 28—The Issue"

WEEK 8	FEBRUARY 25, 2024
Sermon Title:	Divine Covenant for Those Living by Faith
Sermon Text:	Hebrews 11:12-16, 32-40
Speaker:	Wade Allen
Sermon Notes:	





COMMUNITY GROUP

Location:

Date:

Prayer Concerns:

**Study Title:** 

WEEK 8		SOAP JOURNAL
Bible Reading:	Judges 6-7	
Alternative Reading:	Hebrews 10	
Title:		Date:

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Reflections from "Day 29—Divinely Intentional"

Reflections from "Day 30—Can God Really Speak to Me Today?"

Reflections from "Day 31—Falling, But Not Failing"

Reflections from "Day 32—God's Glorious Limitations"

Wеек 9	March 3, 2024
Sermon Title:	Essential Components for Living by Faith
Sermon Text:	Hebrews 12:1-2
Speaker:	Wade Allen
Sermon Notes:	





COMMUNITY GROUP

Location:

Date:

Prayer Concerns:

**Study Title:** 

Wеек 9		SOAP Jou	RNAL
Bible Reading:	Hebrews 10		
Alternative Reading:	Hebrews 11		
Title:		Date:	
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THE LINE OF FAITH BY BILL ELLIFF

Reflections from "Day 33—Are You the Surprising Leader

in the Storm?"

Reflections from "Day 34—Good Posture"

THE LINE OF FAITH BY BILL ELLIFF

Reflections from "Day 35—God's Faith"

Reflections from "Day 36—The Struggle that Destroys and Remakes Us"

<b>WEEK 10</b>	March 10, 2024
Sermon Title:	Pain of Discipline when Living by Faith
Sermon Text:	Hebrews 12:3-11
Speaker:	Wade Allen
Sermon Notes:	





COMMUNITY GROUP

Location:

Date:

Prayer Concerns:

**Study Title:** 

<b>WEEK 10</b>		SOAP JOUR	NAL
Bible Reading:	Hebrews 11		
Alternative Reading:	Hebrews 12		
Title:		Date:	
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Reflections from "Day 37—The Five Marks of Truly Great Leaders"

Reflections from "Day 38-Realistic Faith"

THE LINE OF FAITH BY BILL ELLIFF

Reflections from "Day 39—Entering In"

Reflections from "Day 40—The Last 10% of Faith"

<b>WEEK 11</b>	March 17, 2024
Sermon Title:	Practical Instructions for Living by Faith
Sermon Text:	Hebrews 12:12-17
Speaker:	Wade Allen
Sermon Notes:	



No Community Group Meetings this week!

WEEK 11		SOAP JOURNAL
Bible Reading:	Hebrews 12	
Alternative Reading:	Hebrews 13	
Title:		Date:

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What are the "big ideas" that you learned from this book that you don't want to forget?

# Instructions for SOAP Journaling

As we read God's Word, we begin to see how God responds to things. Doing **daily devotions** re-patterns the way we think and transforms the spirit of the mind. Then, when we face similar situations as Jesus did, we begin to respond in the same way.

Journaling is an excellent way to both record and process what God has spoken to us. It's also a useful tool to use at a later time to reflect on and review some of the "gems" that you have received. Without writing these down, you may forget those blessings and some very important lessons!



#### for Scripture

Open your Bible to today's reading on your Bible Reading Plan. Take time reading and allow God to speak to you. When you are done, look for a verse that spoke to you that day, and write it in your journal.

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## for Observation

What is God saying in this scripture? Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and reveal the truth of this verse to you. Now write a one or two sentence observation about that verse. What does the verse say? What does it mean?



### for Application

Personalize what you have read by asking yourself how it applies to your life right now. Perhaps it is instruction, encouragement, revelation of a new promise, or correction for a particular area of your life. Now write how this Scripture can apply to you today.



#### for Prayer

This can be as simple as asking God to help you apply this Scripture, or it may be a greater insight on what He may be revealing to you. Remember, prayer is a two-way conversation, so be sure to listen to what God has to say!

Don't forget to give your journal entry a title and put it in the Table of Contents. This will help you find it when you want to read it again.

SOAP Journal Table of Contents			
Date	Text	Title	Page

The book you hold in your hand has been designed to be your companion throughout this sermon series from the Book of Hebrews. Each week contains:

- Two pages to take notes from the Sunday sermon with a link to the YouVersion interactive notes as well,
- A page for notes and prayer needs from your Community Group.
- A page to SOAP journal once a week from one of two Bible reading plans.
- And spaces to record your thoughts and reflections from the forty days of devotionals in Bill Elliff's book, The Line of Faith.

The focus of our sermon series will be on Hebrews 10:19—12:17. We will focus on what it means to live with faith that endures. We'll consider what faith that does not "shrink back" or "grow weary" really looks like. We'll also examine the lives of some of the great heroes of the faith to discover how we too can live lives of faith—supporting and encouraging one another!

It is our prayer that God will show you the things that He wants you to learn, and that you will obey all that He shows you!

# Temple Baptist Church