
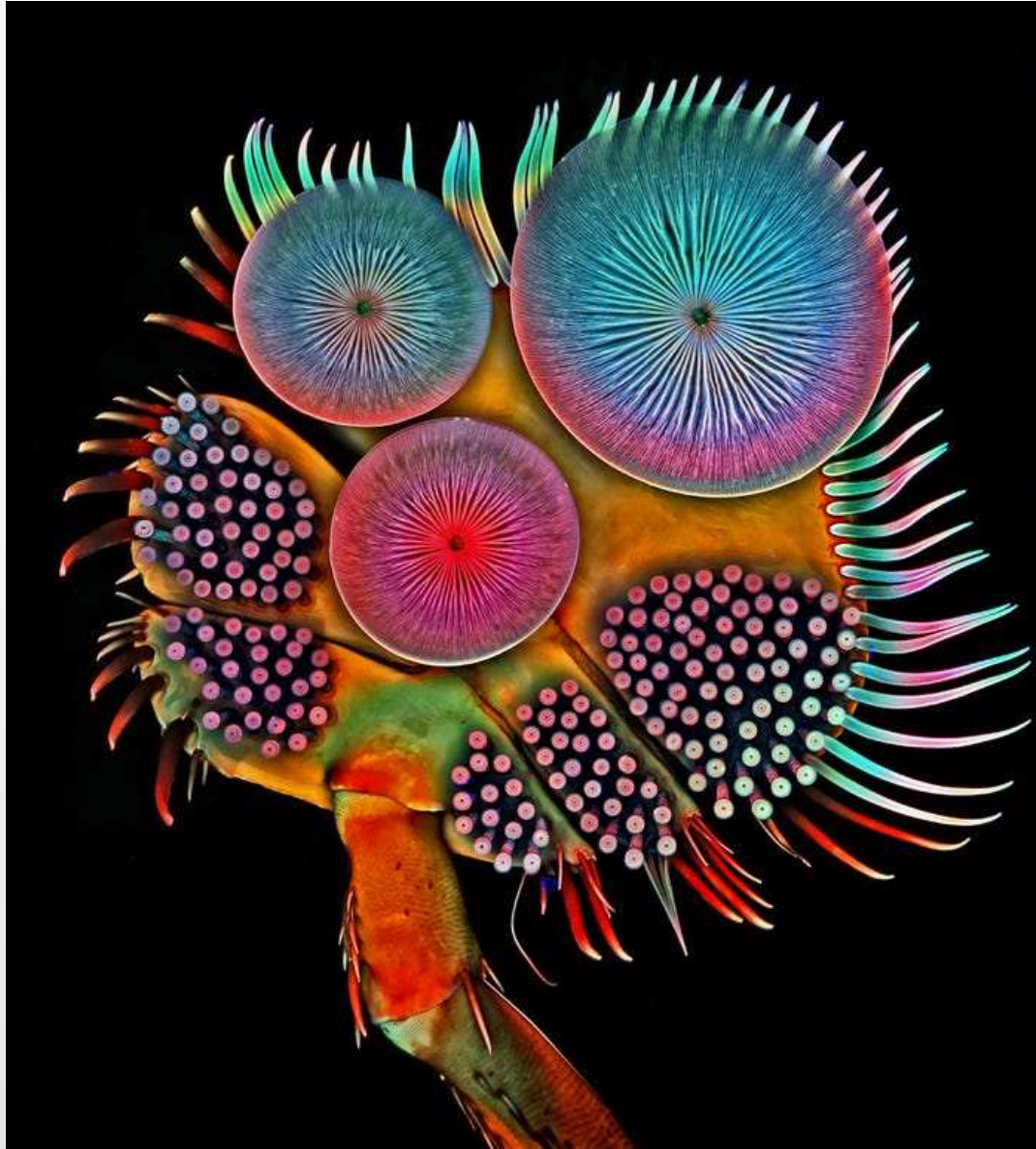
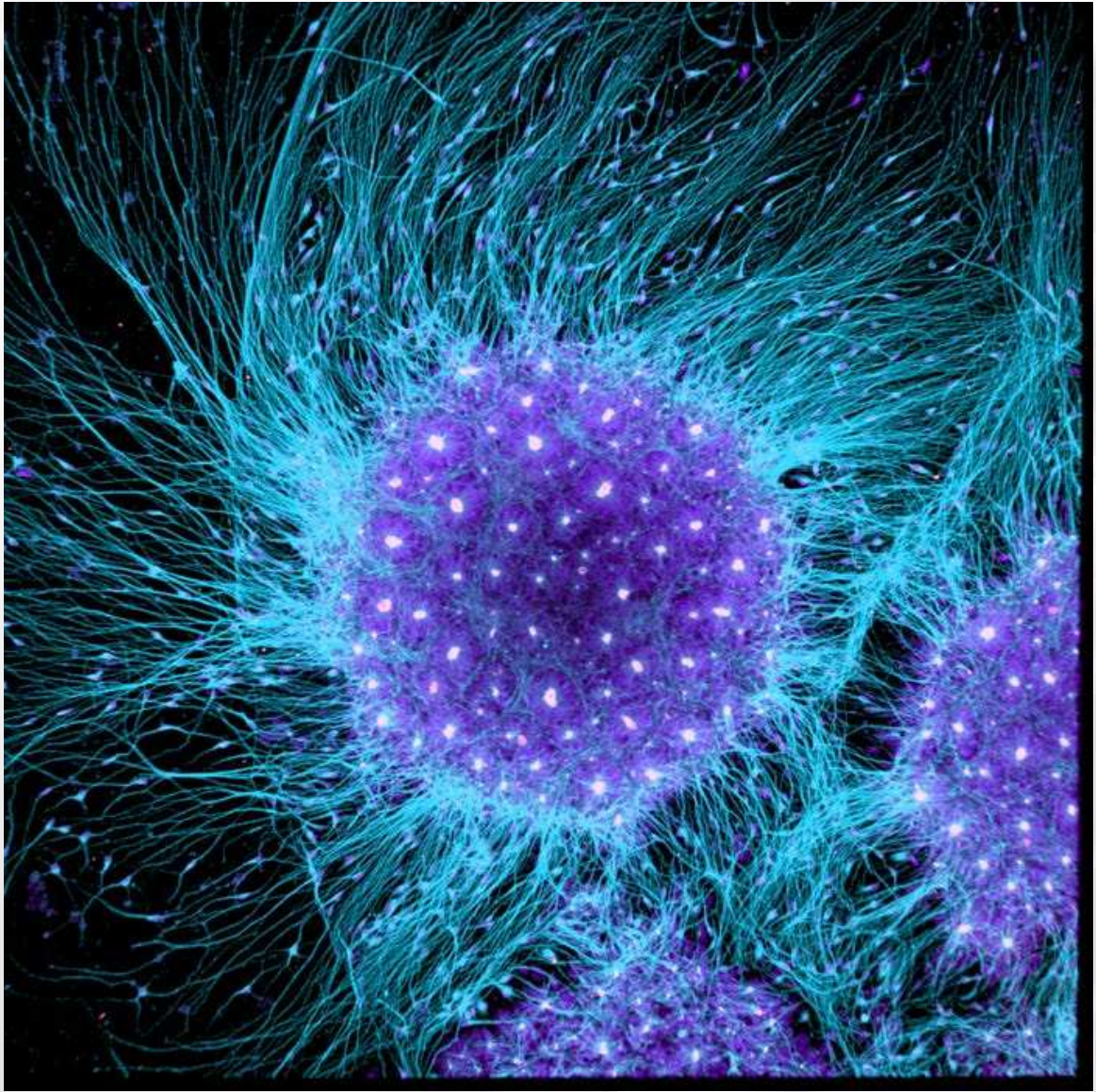


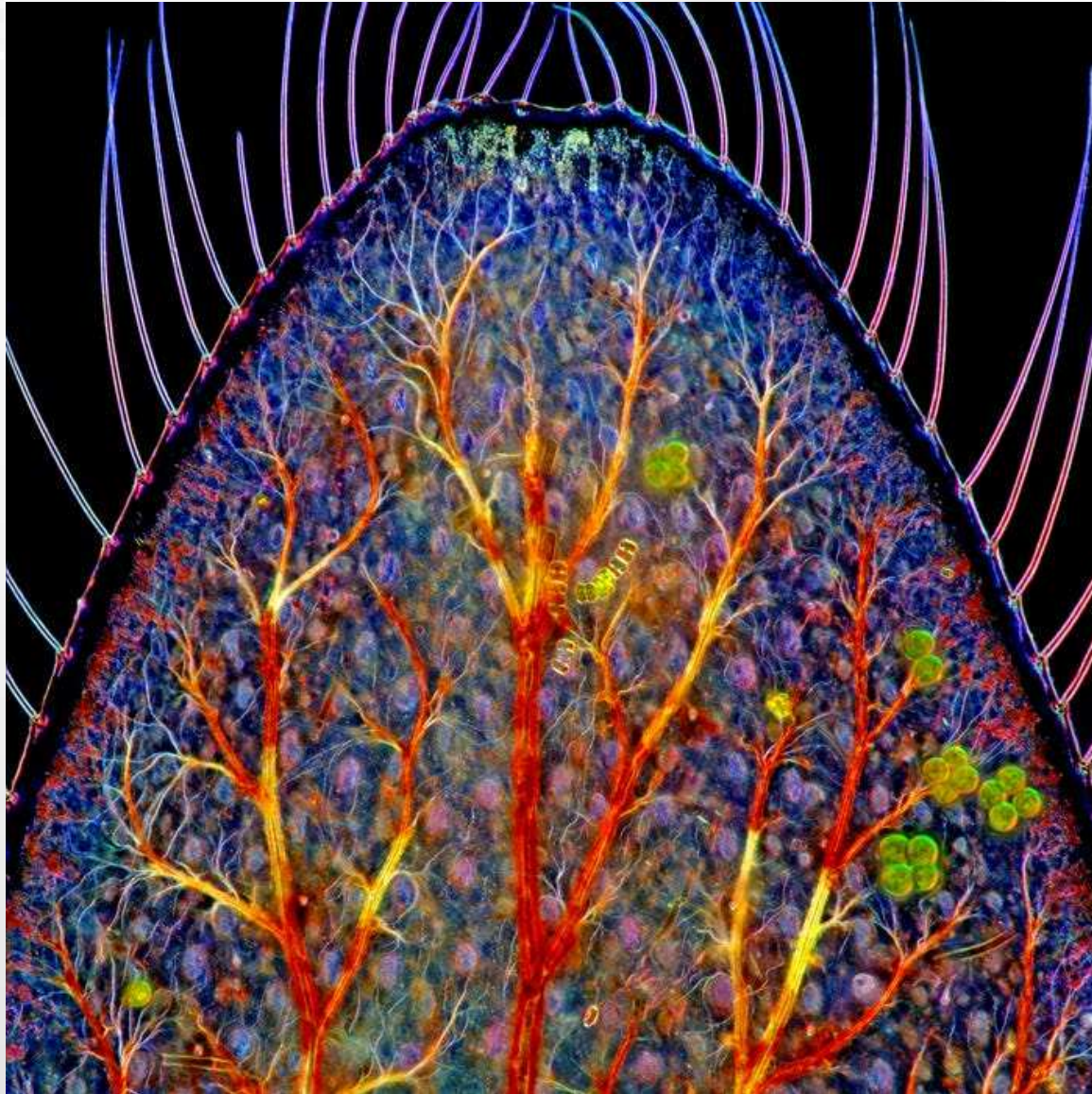
SEEING THROUGH FAITH TO FAITH

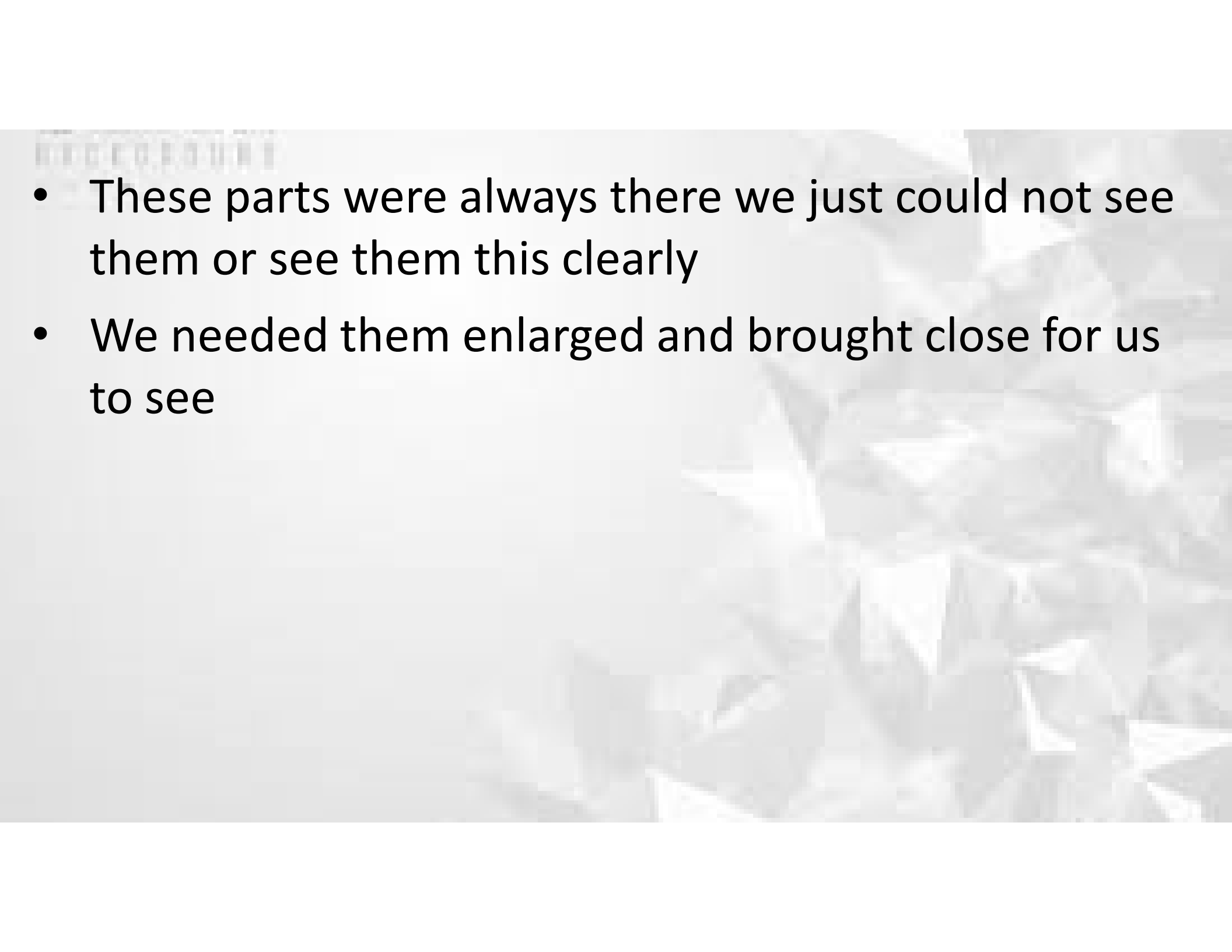
HEBREWS 11:13-16

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- A Dutch father-son team named Hans and Zacharias Janssen invented the first so-called compound microscope in the late 16th century when they discovered that, if they put a lens at the top and bottom of a tube and looked through it, objects on the other end became magnified.







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- These parts were always there we just could not see them or see them this clearly
 - We needed them enlarged and brought close for us to see

- All microscopes work by illuminating an object with light then looking through lenses to see the enlarged image
 - You must see through to see what is there clearly

How does this apply to spiritual faith we have been investigating?

- **1st Corinthians 13:12 NLT** Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity.
 - When we take our fleshly eyes and look at spiritual truths or promises we don't see them clearly
 - We know they are there and true, but we can't see them clearly

How does this apply to spiritual faith we have been investigating?

- We must allow God's light to shine through the Holy Spirit upon His truths and promises for us to grasp the wonder of them
 - Then we need to look through the lens of faith to see them clearly and apply them to our daily lives

How does this apply to spiritual faith we have been investigating?

- In other words, if you want to grow in faith in the promises and truths of God, you must look all the way through, using our he eyes of faith, to see them clearly and so they can have the impact on your life God desires

Hebrews 11:13-16 NLT

- 13 All these people died still believing what God had promised them. They did not receive what was promised, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it. They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth. 14 Obviously people who say such things are looking forward to a country they can call their own.

Hebrews 11:13-16 NLT

- 15 If they had longed for the country they came from, they could have gone back. 16 But they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

The first readers of these words were under hard temptation to go back to their old lifestyles or just give in a little, so they are not persecuted

- Some to go back to Judaism
- Some to denounce Christ and bow their knee to Caesar and declare him god

Who were “all these people”?

- **Hebrews 11:4 NLT** It was by faith that Abel brought a more acceptable offering to God than Cain did.
- **Hebrews 11:7 NLT** It was by faith that Noah built a large boat to save his family from the flood.

Who were “all these people”?

- **Hebrews 11:8 NLT** It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance.
- **Hebrews 11:11 NLT** It was by faith that even Sarah was able to have a child, though she was barren and was too old.
- What does God tell us about them and their faith?

They took their last breath on earth without seeing God's promise to them fully complete

- **Vs. 13a AMP** All these died in faith [guided and sustained by it], without receiving the [tangible fulfillment of God's] promises
- God's promises guided them as they lived out their lives
- God's promises sustained them as they lived out their lives

They took their last breath on earth without seeing God's promise to them fully complete

- Even though their fleshly eyes never saw the tangible fulfillment of God's promise, they never wavered in their trust that God would keep his promises
- Death took their breath away but not God's promises
 - They died with God's promises on their lips

**They took their last breath on earth without seeing
God's promise to them fully complete**

- **2nd Corinthians 4:4 NIV** The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

They took their last breath on earth without seeing God's promise to them fully complete

- **2nd Corinthians 4:6 NLT** For God, who said, “Let there be light in the darkness,” has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.

They looked through their lenses of faith and saw the completion of God's promises to them

- **Vs 13b AMP** only having seen (anticipated) them and having welcomed them from a distance
- **Vs. 13b NLT** they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it

They looked through their lenses of faith and saw the completion of God's promises to them

- The promises of God became real and absolute to them, so they began to anticipate them
 - Anticipate - Realization in advance; foretaste.
expectation

They looked through their lenses of faith and saw the completion of God's promises to them

- Upon salvation we have brand new spiritual eyes to see who Jesus is, what He has done for us, given us and where we belong
- We begin to mature and use these new eyes to see through current circumstances to the fulfillment of God's promises in our lives
- We begin to welcome them in our lives as actually happened

They looked through their lenses of faith and saw the completion of God's promises to them

- Seeing and welcoming God's promises disrupted the rest of Abraham's life
 - Instead of blending in, he was different now
 - People stared at him when he passed the villages as they look with suspicious hearts
 - He had to pitch his tents outside of the town

They looked through their lenses of faith and saw the completion of God's promises to them

- Seeing and welcoming God's promises disrupted the rest of Abraham's life
 - People would speak suspicious questions of him
 - ❖ Who are they? Why are they so different? Be careful around them?

They looked through their lenses of faith and saw the completion of God's promises to them

- The temptation to go back was great, but Abraham had an unconditional promise from God
 - God promised Abraham life, hope and truth past the grave
- The result was Abraham seeing them from a distance and welcomed them as his

They understood they did not fit in this world dominated by rebellion and sinfulness towards God, but a place was being prepared for them by God

- **VS. 13c NLT** They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth.
 - They acknowledged, confessed what?
 - They admitted to themselves, “This is not who we are.”

They understood they did not fit in this world dominated by rebellion and sinfulness towards God, but a place was being prepared for them by God

- When they looked around at the sinfulness around them and what it would do to them, they longed for a place where God's righteous reigned
 - They longed for a place where they fit
 - They did not worship as those around them did
 - They did not live as those around them did

They understood they did not fit in this world dominated by rebellion and sinfulness towards God, but a place was being prepared for them by God

- When they looked around at the sinfulness around them and what it would do to them, they longed for a place where God's righteous reigned
 - They did not govern their lives as those around them did
 - They did not love what those around them did

They understood they did not fit in this world dominated by rebellion and sinfulness towards God, but a place was being prepared for them by God

- When they looked around at the sinfulness around them and what it would do to them, they longed for a place where God's righteous reigned
 - We will pitch a tent here, but we do not belong or fit here
 - If you are comfortable in this world today you better check your salvation, or you walk with God

They understood they did not fit in this world dominated by rebellion and sinfulness towards God, but a place was being prepared for them by God

- The church today looks a lot like the sinful, rebellious world around us
 - What God says is sin is openly accepted as normal
 - What God says is important is set aside to strive after what the world does

They understood they did not fit in this world dominated by rebellion and sinfulness towards God, but a place was being prepared for them by God

- The church today looks a lot like the sinful, rebellious world around us
 - What is important to God is not important to us unless it is easy to achieve
 - We act as if grace gives us a title to live any way we want to

They understood they did not fit in this world dominated by rebellion and sinfulness towards God, but a place was being prepared for them by God

- The church today looks a lot like the sinful, rebellious world around us
 - We fit more in the world than the Kingdom of God
 - The result is we have lost our voice in this world
 - We have lost our influence, joy, peace and power

They understood they did not fit in this world dominated by rebellion and sinfulness towards God, but a place was being prepared for them by God

- The Bible tells us that God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow
- God has not changed nor His word, we have
- The only cure is repentance and turning to Him

They lifted up their spiritual eyes and began longing for a place where God would be honored and glorified, and where righteousness would be normal

- There were two things that the early church kept at the forefront of their minds
 - The resurrection and the return of Jesus Christ

They lifted up their spiritual eyes and began longing for a place where God would be honored and glorified, and where righteousness would be normal

- The early church held firmly to two great truths taught by Jesus
- **Matthew 6:33 NIV** But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

They lifted up their spiritual eyes and began longing for a place where God would be honored and glorified, and where righteousness would be normal

- **John 14:1-3 NIV** “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. 2 My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

They lifted up their spiritual eyes and began longing for a place where God would be honored and glorified, and where righteousness would be normal

- This is the first request in the model prayer Jesus left for us
- **Matthew 6:9-10 NIV** “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 10 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

They lifted up their spiritual eyes and began longing for a place where God would be honored and glorified, and where righteousness would be normal

- God had promised them as heavenly home, a place where they fit perfectly
- **Vs. 16 NIV** But they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland
- They were hungry for a place where God's way was the rule

They lifted up their spiritual eyes and began longing for a place where God would be honored and glorified, and where righteousness would be normal

- It was such a part of their lives they began living here as if they already lived there
- They wanted to be ready when they stepped into this new kingdom
- They wanted to hear, “Well done my good and faithful servant.”

They lifted up their spiritual eyes and began longing for a place where God would be honored and glorified, and where righteousness would be normal

- **Luke 17:21-22 KJV** Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, "See here!" or "See there!" For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."

They lifted up their spiritual eyes and began longing for a place where God would be honored and glorified, and where righteousness would be normal

- **Colossians 1:13 NIV** For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves

What is the result of living for and in this new kingdom?

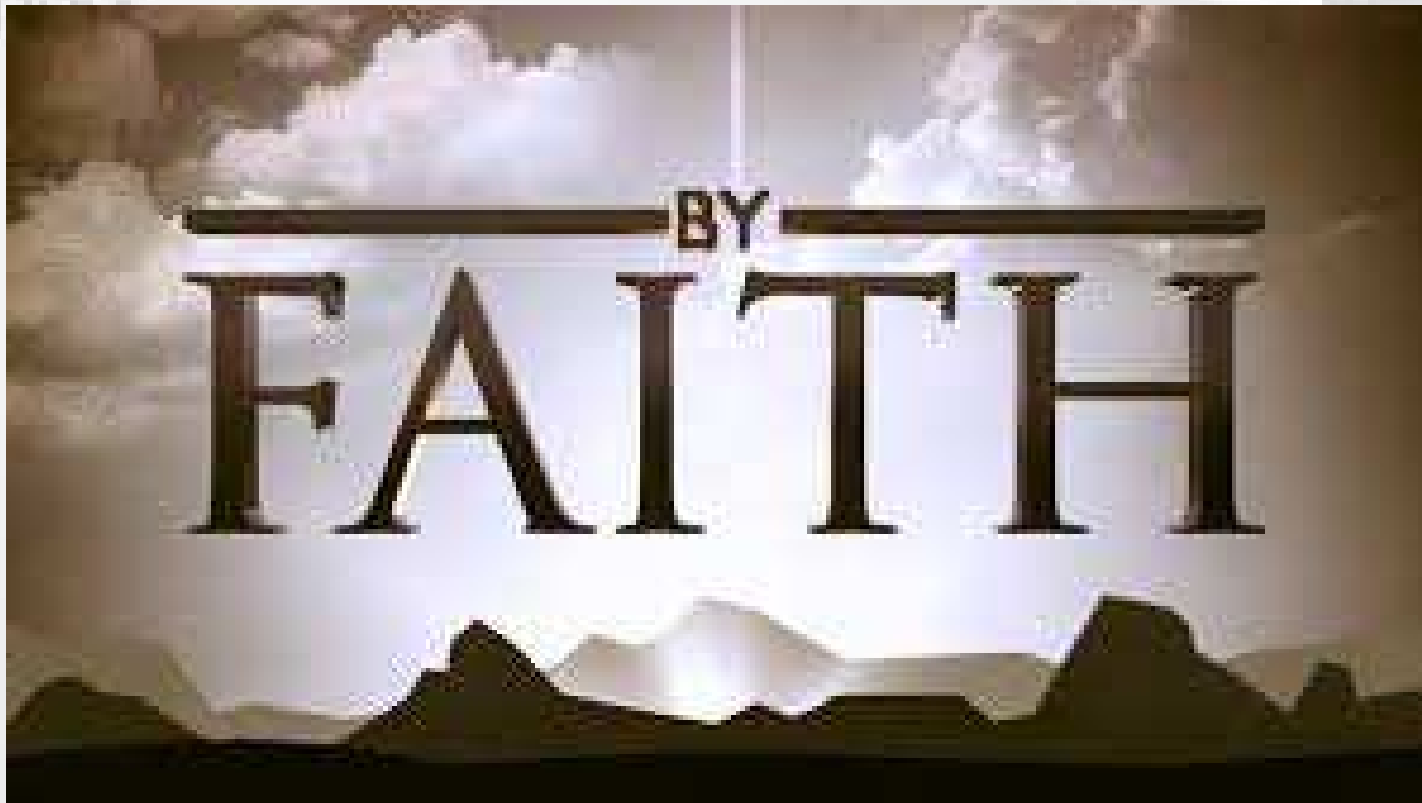
- **Vs. 16b NIV** God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.
- **Vs. 16b AMP** For that reason God is not ashamed [of them or] to be called their God [even to be surnamed their God—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob]; for He has prepared a city for them.
- God is not ashamed to be called their God

What is the result of living for and in this new kingdom?

- The good news is this, we know these people were flawed just like us
- They were not perfect in living the kingdom life
- But they never wavered in their trust in all of God's precious promises

What is the result of living for and in this new kingdom?

- We can rejoice today because death may take our breath away but never God's promises to those who die in Him
- We can rejoice today because - God is not ashamed to be called our God even with our flaws
- We can rejoice today because God is not done with us yet or those you are praying for



SEEING THROUGH FAITH TO FAITH

HEBREWS 11:13-16