

Sermon

Living By Faith
Hebrews 11: 1-16

Sanders Walker

“Living For the One Who Branded Us...Jesus”

Living By Faith

Hebrews 11:1-16

Now faith is the reality^[a] of what is hoped for, the proof^[b] of what is not seen. ²For our ancestors won God's approval by it.

³By faith we understand that the universe was^[c] created by God's command,^[d] so that what is seen has been made from things that are not visible.

⁴By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was approved as a righteous man, because God approved his gifts, and even though he is dead, he still speaks through his faith.

⁵By faith Enoch was taken away so he did not experience death, and he was not to be found because God took him away.^[e] For prior to his removal he was approved, since he had pleased God. ⁶Now without faith it is impossible to please God, for the one who draws near to Him must believe that He exists and rewards those who seek Him.

⁷By faith Noah, after he was warned about what was not yet seen and motivated by godly fear, built an ark to deliver his family. By faith he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

⁸By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed and went out to a place he was going to receive as an inheritance. He went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he stayed as a foreigner in the land of promise, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, coheirs of the same promise. ¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

¹¹By faith even Sarah herself, when she was unable to have children, received power to conceive offspring, even though she was past the age, since she^[f] considered that the One who had promised was faithful. ¹²Therefore from one man—in fact, from one as good as dead—came offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as innumerable as the grains of sand by the seashore.

¹³These all died in faith without having received the promises, but they saw them from a distance, greeted them, and confessed that they were foreigners and temporary residents on the earth. ¹⁴Now those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they were thinking about where they came from, they would have had an opportunity to return. ¹⁶But they now desire a better place—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

I. What is Faith

The definition of faith according to the Merriam-Webster dictionary is “firm belief in something for which there is no proof.”¹

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the reality of what is hoped for, the proof^[b] of what is not seen.

1Corinthians 2:5

So that your faith might not be based on man’s wisdom but on God’s power.

Tim Keller

Faith is not primarily a function of how you feel. Faith is living out, trusting, and believing what truth is despite what you feel.

II. How does Faith affect our Lives?

1 John 3:12

unlike Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered^[a] his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil, and his brothers were righteous.

Genesis 4:4

And Abel also presented an offering—some of the firstborn of his flock and their fat portions. The LORD had regard for Abel and his offering.

III. Enoch walked with God because of faith

Genesis 5:22-24

²² And after the birth of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and fathered other sons and daughters. ²³ So Enoch’s life lasted 365 years. ²⁴ Enoch walked with God; then he was not there because God took him.

Proverbs 3:5-5

Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own understanding;
think about Him in all your ways,
and He will guide you on the right paths.

¹<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/faith>

IV. Faith made Noah work for God

Genesis 6:9-17

⁹These are the family records of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among his contemporaries; Noah walked with God. ¹⁰And Noah fathered three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

¹¹Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with wickedness.^[a] ¹²God saw how corrupt the earth was, for every creature had corrupted its way on the earth. ¹³Then God said to Noah, "I have decided to put an end to every creature, for the earth is filled with wickedness^[b] because of them; therefore I am going to destroy them along with the earth.

¹⁴"Make yourself an ark of gopher^[c] wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it with pitch inside and outside. ¹⁵This is how you are to make it: The ark will be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high.^[d] ¹⁶You are to make a roof,^[e] finishing the sides of the ark to within 18 inches^[f] of the roof. You are to put a door in the side of the ark. Make it with lower, middle, and upper decks.

¹⁷"Understand that I am bringing a flood—floodwaters on the earth to destroy every creature under heaven with the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will die.

James 2:26

For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

V. Faith is where the Promise and Work of God are made real to His redeemed.

- a. We are saved by faith - *Ephesians 2:8-9*
- b. We live by Faith - *Romans 1:17*
- c. We receive righteousness by Faith - *Romans 4:13*
- d. We are justified by Faith - *Romans 5:1*
- e. We have access to God's grace by Faith - *Romans 5:2*
- f. We stand firm in our belief by Faith - *2 Corinthians 1:24*
- g. We receive the promise of the Spirit by Faith - *Galatians 3:14*
- h. God does His work through our Faith - *1 Timothy 1:4*

Conclusion

Faith is where we please God, admit our dependence upon Him and continually seek to rely on Him and His grace. I would like to close with a few questions for us to think about.

1. What is the object of your faith?
2. How do we determine the object of our faith? It is by taking an inventory of our behavior and what is greatest priority in our life.
3. Do you have faith in Christ?