

"The Walk of Faith"

Part 7

Hebrews 11:1-40

Introduction: Over the past several weeks we have been looking at the examples of faith which the writer of Hebrews has presented in Hebrews 11:4-7. We have looked at Abel and Enoch so far and we have seen the faith which they exercised within their lives and how their faith was pleasing to God. Tonight in our study we are going to look at another man from the pre-flood era and his name is Noah. But before we get to Noah tonight there are some thoughts which we need to be reminded of in order to see Noah in the proper context of the writer's thoughts.

In order to grasp the picture which the writer is painting here in this text we must look at Abel, Enoch, and Noah together because the writer has a message which includes all 3 of them.

Notice Hebrews 11:4

Here we see Abel and it is in his life that we see the **worship of faith**. In order for Abel to be accepted of God he had to rest his faith in the promise of a future Redeemer who would prove to be a Substitute for Abel. Abel's faith was demonstrated by the lamb which he brought for the sacrifice.

Notice Hebrews 11:5

Here we see Enoch and he is the example of what it means to **walk by faith**. Enoch stood for God in the midst of a very corrupt society. He was not afraid to call sin what it truly was and he was not afraid to announce the judgment of God that would fall upon the ungodly. Enoch lived by faith and his faith was pleasing to God and so God translated him from the earth into Paradise.

Now let me pull the thoughts of these 2 men together and then we will move on to Noah.

Abel shows us that no man can approach God nor can any man worship God except by faith in the Substitutionary death of Jesus Christ. After a person is saved then Enoch's picture enters in and he becomes the example of how we are to live our everyday lives. We are to stand for God and trust Him with every situation which we face in our lives. But there is more and that is where Noah comes in.

I. The Examples of Faith
Part 5
"Noah"

Notice Hebrews 11:7

Here we see Noah and in his life we see the works of faith.

James 2:17-20

¹⁷ *Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.*

¹⁸ *Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.*

¹⁹ *Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.*

²⁰ *But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?*

James made it very clear that when we have TRUE saving faith that it will produce works within our lives. These works will be the evidence that our faith is real.

Ephesians 2:8-10

⁸ *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

⁹ *Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

¹⁰ *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

We are saved by faith and then when we LIVE by faith our faith will be seen in the works that we do. This is exactly what we shall see in the life of Noah. I want to take some time and look closely at the life of Noah to consider his faith and some valuable lessons for our lives.

1. Noah heard God.

By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear...

Here we see that God warned Noah and Noah heard the warning from God. Let us turn to Genesis 6 and look at the account of Noah there.

Notice Genesis 6:13-22

Noah heard God and he did all that God commanded. I point out that Noah heard God because this is very important. Noah lived in the midst of a wicked and corrupt society.

Notice Genesis 6:1-3

Here we can see there was demonic possession and we can also see that man welcomed the demonic influenced and I say this because God said that His Spirit would not always strive with MAN. He did not say His Spirit would not always strive with the fallen angels. The angels were completely out of line but it was man who was turning to the demonic world.

So in the midst of all of this we can know that Noah was tuned into God and when God spoke Noah heard him. This tells me that Noah was walking in a close relationship with God and He was sensitive to the leading of the Spirit.

Application:

I point this out because we too live in wicked corrupt world and if we are not careful we can get caught up in the world and never hear God when He softly whispers to our hearts. Let me show you what is missing in the lives of many believers.

Psalm 46:10

¹⁰ **Be still, and know that I am God:** *I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.*

This is what is missing. There are very little times of stillness in the lives of many believers today. People are so busy and have little time to slow down and spend time with the Lord. For this reason many miss what it is that God has for them. They get so tangled in the world that the noise of this world keeps them from hearing that still small voice.

Let me show you a lesson which God taught to His prophet Elijah.

1 Kings 19:11-12

¹¹ *And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks*

before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake:

¹² And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.

There is much here to learn but what I want you to see is that God does not always reveal speak through some significant event or through some catastrophic means. But He speaks to our hearts with that still small voice. For this reason we need to be sure we are allowing time alone so that we are able to "hear" God impress upon our hearts His will and His desire for our lives.

2. Noah believed God.

⁷ By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house;...

Let me show you the warning which God gave to Noah.

Notice Genesis 6:13, 17

God warned Noah of a coming flood and God announced that He would destroy all the inhabitants of the earth. The writer of Hebrews tells us that Noah was warned of God OF THINGS NOT SEEN AS YET. This tells us Noah had probably never seen rain nor had he ever seen a flood and we know he had never seen a global flood. God warned Noah about things which Noah had never seen in his life but Noah still believed God. Noah's faith was so great that he even built an ark as God had asked him to build.

Notice Genesis 6:14-16

The ark which Noah built was probably about 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high.

Notice Genesis 6:3

God had announced here that the flood would come in 120 years so we can assume that it took Noah over 100 years to build this great ship which God had commanded him to build. Noah's faith was so great that he built this massive ship before he had ever seen rain or a flood. He most likely built it far from any water and while he built the ark he also preached.

2 Peter 2:5

⁵ *And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;*

Noah had such faith in God that while he worked on the ark he proclaimed the coming judgment. This sounds easy but can you imagine after 50 years of criticism and no converts and no sign of rain, just how difficult it would be to keep doing what God had asked?

Then on top of this we have no record that God ever spoke to Noah again until the completion of the ark. So he possibly had 120 years of silence; either way Noah continued to walk by faith and he continued to preach and do the work of a builder. As far as we know Noah was discouraged by nothing. The bottom line was HE BELIEVED GOD.

Application:

This seems simple but we also need to be reminded that we too need to believe what God says. I believe I am safe to say that we do not believe God all the time. Let me give you some examples.

When the pressure in life starts to close in do we really believe;

Hebrews 13:5

⁵ *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

Or do we truly believe;

Isaiah 43:1-3

But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.

² *When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.*

³ *For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour...*

When we the trials of life come and we find ourselves in one of the darkest of valleys do we really believe;

Romans 8:28

²⁸ *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

When friends and family forsake us and all the world seems to be against us do we believe;

Jeremiah 31:3

³ *The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.*

Conclusion:

When we are walking by faith these are 2 things that will be true in our lives:

1. **We will be tuned in to the voice of God.**
2. **We will believe what God's Word says and not doubt.**