

**"The Walk of Faith"**

**Part 8**

**Hebrews 11:1-40**

**Introduction:** Tonight in our study of Hebrews we are again returning to Hebrews 11 and as we do we are stepping back into the life of Noah once again.

The writer has presented to his readers the faith of Abel, the faith of Enoch and the faith of Noah. In Abel we looked at Worship of Faith. It was through Abel's faith in the death of the "substitute" that allowed him to come to God and worship Him. Then in Enoch we were able to see the Walk of Faith. Enoch lived his life in complete separation from the ungodly world of his day. He lived by faith and his faith was pleasing to God. Therefore, God translated Enoch from the earth into Paradise.

Last week in our study we stepped into the life of Noah and it is in his life that we are able to see the Works of Faith.

**I. The Examples of Faith**

**Part 6**

**"Noah"**

**Notice Hebrews 11:7**

In this verse we are able to see the Works of Faith which are to be evident in the lives of all of God's children.

**James 2:17-20**

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

<sup>18</sup> *Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy*

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

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

**Ephesians 2:10**

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

Last week we looked at 2 points from the life of Noah.

1. Noah heard God.
2. Noah believed God.

As we continue tonight I want to show you from the life of Noah one of the characteristics of the Works of Faith.

### I. Noah's Faith was Persistent.

#### Notice Hebrews 11:7

The writer tells us that Noah was warned of God of things not seen as yet. This means that Noah had never seen a flood nor had he ever seen rain. Now let me show you some verses from Genesis.

#### Genesis 6:1-3

*And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,*

<sup>2</sup> *That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.*

<sup>3</sup> *And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.*

Here in Genesis 6:3 we see that God had determined that man would be given 120 years of grace before the flood came upon the world. This is recorded for us but we do not know if Noah had this information. God had given to him a message.

#### Genesis 6:13-17

<sup>13</sup> *And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.*

<sup>14</sup> *Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.*

*<sup>15</sup> And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits.*

*<sup>16</sup> A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it.*

*<sup>17</sup> And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die.*

This is the message which God gave to Noah but there is no mention of WHEN the flood would come. The only way Noah would have been able to know when the flood was coming was from something which had taken place earlier.

### **Genesis 5:21-27**

*<sup>21</sup> And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah:*

*<sup>22</sup> And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters:*

*<sup>23</sup> And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years:*

*<sup>24</sup> And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.*

*<sup>25</sup> And Methuselah lived an hundred eighty and seven years, and begat Lamech.*

*<sup>26</sup> And Methuselah lived after he begat Lamech seven hundred eighty and two years, and begat sons and daughters:*

*<sup>27</sup> And all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred sixty and nine years: and he died.*

When Enoch was 65 years old he fathered a son whom he named Methuselah. Methuselah's name had a special meaning. It means "when he dies it will come". Methuselah would live for 969 years and the very year he died the flood came. Now Methuselah was the grandfather of Noah therefore Noah would have understood the meaning of his grandfather's name. They would most likely have been very close. So possibly Noah would have been able to watch his grandfather's health and gauge the coming of the flood.

I personally do not think that God would have told him when the flood was coming because he desired for Noah to LIVE BY FAITH.

So we can only imagine how difficult this was for Noah. He preached of the coming judgment and he cut lumber for 120 years waiting upon the flood. Now let us remember that it never rained nor did it even get cloudy. Let us also keep in mind that Noah had NO converts.

But he never quit because HE BELIEVED God! His faith never wavered. Therefore we can say that Noah's faith was persistent and it was resilient.

**Application:**

This is exactly the kind of faith that is pleasing to God. This is what He desires from our lives. Too many times there are believers who start out with great determination but as time goes by they become weary and when they face resistance they quit. They go back to just living their lives content just to be saved.

**Galatians 6:9**

*<sup>9</sup> And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*

This verse describes the very life of Moses. Notice what Paul wrote to the Corinthians.

**1 Corinthians 15:58**

*<sup>58</sup> Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*

Now let us consider the results of Noah's faith.

1. His family was saved.

**Notice Hebrews 11:7**

Noah's family was saved because he believed God and he built the ark which they too were able to enter and be saved from the judgment of God.

**Application:**

Let us learn from Noah's life the importance of walking by faith. Our unwavering faith may be used by God to reach our own families whom we desire to see saved.

**Hebrews 11:1**

*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

I cannot emphasize the importance of serving God and walking by faith as a parent or a grandparent. Your family may not listen to your words but I can assure you that they will not be able to ignore your walk of faith and the persistence of your faith as you remain committed to God just as Noah was. When we compromise our walk of faith we are teaching our loved ones that our relationship with God is not that important.

Noah's family watched him labor on the ark for 120 years. Let us keep in mind they did not receive the warning from God for the warning was given to Noah and he passed it down to them. They too believed in that which they had never seen and they believed it because they were able to see Noah's faith at work in his life. I can assure you that Noah had to make many sacrifices in order to get the ark built. I am sure he his wife had to sacrifice her time with her husband because of the demands of the ark. But in the end when the rain began to fall and the waters began to rise it was all worth it.

The sacrifices we have to make to live out our faith today will one day all be worth it. For the believers who compromise their faith and their dedication I can assure you there will be great heart ache one day.

**2. He condemned the world.**

**Notice Hebrews 11:7**

What does it mean that Noah condemned the world with his faith?

Those of Noah's day ridiculed him and suppressed the message which he preached. They refused to believe that God would judge the world with a global flood. Noah never allowed their words or their rejection of the message deter him from living out his faith. In this verse we need to notice that he condemned the WORLD with his faith. There are believed to be some 9-10 billion people at that time and this tells us that his message and his exercise of his faith had been made known to the world. I remind you also that the land masses were all connected before the flood so people came from all over to see the ark. So his faith condemned those who refused to believe.

Notice the words of Spurgeon:

*I do not read that Noah ever entered into any dispute with the men of his times. He never argued, much less did he wish them ill; he simply believed and told them the truth. He kept his own faith intact and went on building his ark, thus practicing what he believed. In this way he condemned those who criticized him. So you see that **faith** has a condemning power towards an ungodly world. You do not need to be constantly telling worldlings that they are doing wrong; let them see clearly the evidence of your faith for that will bear the strongest conceivable witness against their unbelief and sin, even as Noah, by his faith, "condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith."*

Let me show you the words of Jesus in Luke.

### **Luke 11:31-32**

<sup>31</sup> *The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with the men of this generation, and condemn them: for she came from the utmost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.*

<sup>32</sup> *The men of Nineve shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.*

When we walk by faith and do not allow the world and the ways of the world to deter us we are condemning the world with our faith. Their judgment will be more severe because they witnessed our faith and our work of faith.

### **3. He became the heir of righteousness.**

#### **Notice Hebrews 11:7**

Because of Noah's faith he was declared to be righteous in the eyes of God. When Noah died he went to Paradise and there he and all the other Old Testament saints waited for the death of Jesus Christ. When Jesus died their sins were taken away and they were covered in the righteousness of Christ. Before the death of Jesus Christ they were saved on credit.

Speaking of Abraham the Bible tells us:

#### **Genesis 15:6**

<sup>6</sup> *And he believed in the LORD; and he counted [credited] it to him for righteousness.*

*January 18, 2017*

*Hebrews study #89*

Noah was also declared righteous based on credit. When Jesus died the credit was paid.

**Romans 3:22**

*<sup>22</sup> Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:*

**Conclusion:**

Our faith impacts our lives for by it we are covered in the righteousness of Jesus Christ. But we also must remember that our faith impacts the lives of many other people. It is so important for you and me to LIVE BY FAITH. Some day we will know the impact our faith had on those around us. Abel, Enoch and Noah are still touching lives with their faith.