

“By Faith ...”

Abel, Enoch, and Noah

Hebrews 11:4-7

“By Faith Abel ...”

Faith is More than Conviction, it is Conduct Directed by God

- ▶ Genesis 4:1-5 – “... the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering”
 - ▶ “By faith” indicates it was done in accordance with God's instruction
 - ▶ Romans 10:17 – “... faith comes from hearing”
- ▶ Our actions are only “excellent” if they are directed by God's will
 - ▶ Ephesians 2:10 – “... we should walk in them”
 - ▶ II Timothy 3:16-17 – “equipped for every good work”

“By Faith Abel ...”

Our Righteousness is Confirmed or Denied by God's Word

- ▶ God testified about Abel's gift
 - ▶ Genesis 4:4-5 – “the Lord had regard ...”
- ▶ The Spirit bears witness with our spirit
 - ▶ Romans 8:15-17 – “The Spirit himself bears witness ...”
 - ▶ The spiritual man will be subject to God's law
 - ▶ Romans 8:2, 7, 9 – “... set you free ...”
- ▶ We must examine ourselves to see if we are in subjection to God's word
 - ▶ II Corinthians 13:5 – “Examine yourselves”

“By Faith Abel ...”

Faith Leaves a Legacy

- ▶ Though dead, Abel still speaks through his “more acceptable” sacrifice
 - ▶ Hebrews 11:4 – “By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain”
- ▶ We can continue to positively affect others in the future by the life we are living now
 - ▶ Hebrews 11:2 – “... the people of old received their commendation
 - ▶ Hebrews 13:7, 17, 24 – “imitate their faith”

“By Faith Enoch ...”

Faith Requires a Willingness to Change

- ▶ Enoch may not have always walked by faith – began at 65 after the birth of his son
 - ▶ Genesis 5:21-24 – “Enoch walked with God”
- ▶ God requires repentance – repentance is an act of faith
 - ▶ Acts 17:30 – “... he commands all people everywhere to repent”
- ▶ Doing God's will is what matters
 - ▶ Matthew 21:28-32 – “Which of the two did the will of his father?”

“By Faith Enoch ...”

Faith Requires Outspokenness

- ▶ Hebrews 11:5 – “... he was commended as having pleased God”
- ▶ Enoch prophesied for God
 - ▶ Jude 14-15 – “... Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied”
- ▶ The Hebrews were encouraged to be outspoken (confident) in their faith
 - ▶ Hebrews 10:35-36 – “... you have need of endurance”
- ▶ Our faith is not to be kept to ourselves
 - ▶ Matthew 10:27-28, 32-33 – “proclaim on the housetops”
 - ▶ Acts 8:4 – “went about preaching the word”

"By Faith Enoch ..."**It is a Blessing When the Faithful Go to be with God**

- ▶ God took Enoch early, without death, about mid-life
 - ▶ Hebrews 11:5 – "By faith Enoch was taken up"
- ▶ Enoch and Lamech, both 7th sons from Adam (Seth and Cain), show the early divide in humankind
 - ▶ Genesis 4:16-24 – "... away from the presence of the Lord"
- ▶ It is a blessing to depart and be with the Lord
 - ▶ Philippians 1:21, 23 – "... to die is gain"
 - ▶ Psalms 116:15 – "... the death of his saints"

"By Faith Noah ..."**Faith Acts on God's Word, Not the Status Quo**

- ▶ Noah had followed God up to the point of the judgment on the ungodly world
 - ▶ Genesis 6:5-9, 13, 17 – "Noah was a righteous man"
- ▶ The scoffers in Peter's day trusted in the status quo
 - ▶ II Peter 3:1-7 – "Where is the promise ..."
- ▶ Noah trusted God's words and acted accordingly. He did so for a long time
 - ▶ Genesis 6:3 – "his days shall be 120 years"

"By Faith Noah ..."**Faith Gives Attention to Detail in the Fear of God**

- ▶ Noah obeyed God in everything
 - ▶ Genesis 6:22 – "he did all ..."
- ▶ Such action was due to his godly fear
 - ▶ Hebrews 11:7 – "in reverent fear ..."
- ▶ The Hebrews were warned about resisting God's word
 - ▶ Hebrews 12:25, 28-29 – "do not refuse him"
 - ▶ Hebrews 2:1-4 – "lest we drift away from it"
- ▶ We are to hold fast the pattern of sound words in faith
 - ▶ II Timothy 1:13 – "Follow the pattern ..."

"By Faith Noah ..."**Faith Affects Families for the Better**

- ▶ Noah saved his household by his actions
 - ▶ Hebrews 11:7 – "the saving of his household"
 - ▶ I Peter 3:20 – "brought safely through water"
- ▶ Faith, or the lack thereof, will drastically affect the spiritual direction of the family
 - ▶ Joshua 24:15 – "we will serve the Lord"

Faith Will Naturally Condemn the Unfaithful

- ▶ God's design is for His people to display their faith to bring godly sorrow on others
 - ▶ Matthew 5:13-16 – "let your light shine ..."
 - ▶ I Peter 2:11-12 – "see your good deeds ..."
 - ▶ II Corinthians 7:10 – "salvation without regret"

Obeying The Gospel**Hear the Word of God**

- ▶ James 1:21 – "... receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls."

Believe the Gospel message about Jesus

- ▶ I John 3:23-24 – "... that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ ..."

Repent of your sins

- ▶ Acts 3:19 – "Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out"

Obeying The Gospel**Confess that Jesus is the Son of God**

- ▶ Romans 10:9-10 – "... with the mouth one confesses and is saved"

Be immersed in water

- ▶ Acts 2:38 – "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ ..."

Remain faithful

- ▶ I Corinthians 15:1-2 – "if you hold fast to the word I preached to you – unless you believed in vain"