

A Call to Follow Jesus Faithfully and with Perseverance

Hebrews 10:19-12:29

Persevering in Faith under Pressure

Hebrews 10:32-12:3

2. Faith and its many outstanding examples

Hebrews 11:1-40

b. Examples of those who lived, suffered, and died in faith as they relied on the strength of God's grace

Hebrews 11:5

2nd Example is Enoch

Note the following

1. Remember that chapter 10 closed by encouraging us to live by faith thus avoiding apostasy
2. Chapter 11 is enlarging upon the nature and fruits of faith.
 - a. Verses 1-3 tells us the nature of faith, and that it is faith that recognizes that God created our world and the universe out of nothing, just His spoken word.
 - b. We are continuing to at the Old Testament examples of faith (4-38)

Note: We are looking at examples of those who lived, suffered, and died in faith as they relied on the strength of God's grace (4-38)

Note: Our lessons of faith continue with Enoch and Noah. Let us look at the Scriptures.

i. Hebrews 11:5

1) KJV...

5) By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

2) NLT...

5) It was by faith that Enoch was taken up to heaven without dying—"he disappeared, because God took him." For before he was taken up, he was known as a person who pleased God.

3) AMP...

5) Because of faith Enoch was caught up *and* transferred to heaven, so that he did not have a glimpse of death; and he was not found, because God had translated him. For even before he was taken to heaven, he received testimony [still on record] that he had pleased *and* been satisfactory to God.

ii. Genesis 4:21-24

1) KJV...

21) And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah: 22) And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: 23) And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years: 34) And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.

2) NLT...

21) When Enoch was 65 years old, he became the father of Methuselah. 22) After the birth of Methuselah, Enoch lived in close fellowship with God for another 300 years, and he had other sons and daughters. 23) Enoch lived 365 years, 24) walking in close fellowship with God. Then one day he disappeared, because God took him.

3) AMP...

21) When Enoch was 65 years old, Methuselah was born. 22) Enoch walked [in habitual fellowship] with God after the birth of Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters. 23) So all the days of Enoch were 365 years. 24) And Enoch walked [in habitual fellowship] with God; and he was not, for God took him [home with Him].

Note: Let me point out two or three different things in the Hebrew and Genesis account of Enoch

- i. In the Hebrew account, the Amplified reminds us that Enoch's testimony of pleasing and being satisfying God is still on record.
- ii. In the Genesis account, the Amplified mentions twice that Enoch walked "in habitual fellowship" with God.
- iii. Habitual means constantly or as a habit. Enoch's pattern of behavior, which was walking together with God became habitual.

1) Is your walk with God habitual?

2) Is your pattern of behavior habitually lining up with God?

3) Do you have such a habit of being with God that when you are see, God is seen also

Note: Now let us look at the next lesson faith which is Enoch.

I. Enoch is the second from Adam that has a good report through faith

A. Let us look at what was reported about Enoch

1. In Genesis 5:22, we find that it is reported that “he walked with God.
 - a. Enoch actively walked with God
 - b. Enoch progressed in his walk with God
 - c. Enoch persevered in his walk with God
 - d. Enoch’s will was conformed to God’s will.
 - e. Enoch communed with God.
 - f. Enoch was complacent or satisfied with his relationship with God
2. Enoch was translated that he should not see death
 - a. There was no part of him left on earth
 - b. God took Enoch, soul and body, into heaven
 - c. Enoch is a type of the church that will be translated when the Lord returns if their walk with God is a walk like Enoch walked.
 - i. God will take us like He did Enoch
 - ii. Alive, we will be translated and changed and caught up to meet the Lord in the air
3. Enoch before his translation had this testimony, that he pleased God.
 - a. The Spirit of God witnessed with Enoch’s spirit that he pleased God
 - b. Those that walk by faith with God in this sinful world are pleasing to God
 - c. Those that please God will be given marks of God’s favor
 - d. God will give honor to those who please Him

Note: Now let us look at Hebrews 11:6

- i. KJV...

6) But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

- 2) NLT...

6) And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.

3) Amp...

6) But without faith it is impossible to please *and* be satisfactory to Him. For whoever would come near to God must [necessarily] believe that God exists and that He is the rewarder of those who earnestly *and* diligently seek Him [out].

B. Without faith it is impossible to please God (v6)

Note: The writer tosses this in right after Enoch. Why?

i. In v1, we are told that

1) Kjv...Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2) Net...

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for, being convinced of what we do not see.

ii. Now we are told that without faith it is impossible to please God. Why?

iii. Consider these thoughts

1) v2...It was by faith that the elders obtained a good report

a) By faith Abel left the testimony that he pleased God

b) By faith Enoch walked with God

c) By faith Enoch was caught away without dying

2) Then in v3, we find that it is by faith that we understand that God framed the world out of nothing.

3) Then after two examples of faith, the writer under the anointing of the Holy Spirit tells us that

a) Without faith it is impossible to please God

b) Those who comes to God must believe that God is

c) Those who come to God must believe that God is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

d) People of faith “diligently” seek God (by assumption)

- i) A diligent person is one that exercises care in what they are doing
 - ii) A diligent person conscientious about what he does, for he wants it done right
 - iii) Those who diligently seek God and serve God are careful, not careless in how they approach God and fellowship with Him.
- 4) If we do not have a faith that helps us to walk with God, we cannot come to God
 - 5) If we do not have an active faith, we cannot please God
 - 6) A person with active faith is a person willing to change their lives to please God
1. A person of faith believes that God is
 - a. A faith person believe that God is what He has revealed Himself to be in the scripture,
 - b. A person of faith knows that one day they will face God, so they are restrained from sinning, from presumptuously sinning
 2. A person of faith believes that God is “a rewarder of those that diligently seek Him.”
 - a. Mankind lost God when he sinned in the Garden of Eden, which meant that man lost
 - i. Light, for man now lived in darkness, and without God there is no light.
 - ii. Love, for God is love, and man cannot truly love without God
 - iii. God- Likeness, for man was made in the image and likeness of God, but without God the Light, then man no longer has God-likeness
 - iv. Man lost the ability to have personal communion with God because sin caused by disobedience severed that relationship, and will still sever the relationship between man and God when men presumptuously go against God’s plan, which is sin.

Note James 4:17... Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

- b. Man lost God, but now God can be found by us through Christ, the second Adam.
- c. God has provided a way through Christ by which we can again enter into the presence of God, and that way is through Jesus Christ, only through Jesus.

Note Acts 4:12...

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

- d. So, for those who desire to find God, who desire to receive an answer from God, and who desire to enjoy God's eternal presence must by faith
- i. Seek God diligently which means earnestly and perseveringly, continually.
 - ii. Believe that God actually exists, and that He is the One God Who can respond answer your prayer to change the events of your life
 - iii. Believe that God will reward those who earnestly, diligently, continually seek Him.

Note these Scriptures that remind us that those who seek the Lord will find Him.

- i. Deuteronomy 4:29

But if from thence thou shalt seek the Lord thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.

- ii. 1st Chronicles 28:9...If thou seek him, he will be found of thee;
- iii. 2nd Chronicles 15:2...And if ye seek him, he will be found of you;
- iv. Hebrews 11:6..

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

III. Noah is the third from Adam that is acknowledged as a person of faith

Note Hebrews 11:7 concerning Noah

- i. KJV...

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; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

- ii. NLT...

It was by faith that Noah built a large boat to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about things that had never happened before. By his faith Noah condemned the rest of the world, and he received the righteousness that comes by faith.

- iii. AMP...

[Prompted] by faith Noah, being forewarned by God concerning events of which as yet there was

no visible sign, took heed *and* diligently *and* reverently constructed *and* prepared an ark for the deliverance of his own family. By this [his faith which relied on God] he passed judgment and sentence on the world's unbelief and became an heir *and* possessor of righteousness (that relation of being right into which God puts the person who has faith).

Note: The story of Noah is found in Genesis 5:29-9:29

Note the following facts concerning Noah's life

- i. In Genesis 5:32, we find that after Noah was 500 years old, he had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.
- ii. Noah was 600 years old when the flood came, and 601 years old when the flood waters abated.
- iii. In Genesis 6:3, God 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"
- iv. Some Scholars feel that his 120 refers to how many years are left till the flood comes.
- iv. If this be true, the these same Scholars feel that Noah worked on the Ark for 120 years, which mean that at the age of 480 years, he begin building the ark, which was 20 years before he began to birth Shem, Ham, and Japheth.
- v. Shem is mentioned first throughout the Bible, not because he was the eldest, but because it is through Shem that Christ descended.
- vi. Genesis 10:21 identifies Japheth as being Shem's elder brother, which makes Ham the youngest.

A. Let us look at the foundation of Noah's faith

1. According to the writer of Hebrews, Noah was warned by God of thing not yet seen
2. Noah had a divine revelation
3. Noah was forewarned of things not seen as yet, which is referring to the judgment by water, the flood that would destroy the earth
4. Noah received the revelation of judgment, and in turn, he was to warn his generation of God's judgment by a flood to destroy sinful man
5. Consider these thoughts from Genesis
 - a. In chapter 5, looking at the genealogy, you find that Enoch was Noah's great grandfather

- b. According to Heslop who wrote Gems from Genesis,
- i. The name Enoch means to teach or instruct (Great Grandfather)
 - ii. The name Methuselah means when he is dead, it shall be sent (Grandfather)
 - iii. The name Lamech means conqueror or king (Father)
 - iv. Noah's name means rest.
- c. Lamech was 48 years old when Enoch was translated, and 134 years after Enoch was translated, Noah was born.
- d. I cannot help but think that when Noah was a child, he would hear his father and grandfather discuss Enoch, Noah's Great Grandfather.
- e. Noah would have been raised knowing that his great grandfather was a man that habitually walked with God, and then one day, he was no longer. Poof ! Gone!
- f. Noah would have been raise hearing discussion between his father and grandfather concerning the revelation that Enoch received of a flood that would occur in the year Noah's grandfather would die.
- g. Something got Noah's attention which motivated Noah to begin walking with God.
- h. I, personally, feel that these events impacted Noah's life to where He sought God
- 1st. In Genesis 6:8, we read that "Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.
- i. Nlt...Noah found favor with God.
 - ii. Amp...Noah found grace (favor) in the eyes of the Lord

Note: Why? What made Noah different from the rest? What made Enoch different from those between him and Abel? What made Abel different?

- i. I think it is faith.
- ii. Faith in God who prepared a way through sacrifice to approach Him
- iii. Faith that God would accept them and in fellowship they walked with God

2nd. In Genesis 6:9, we read that

- i. Kjv...Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.

ii. Nlt...Noah was a righteous man, the only blameless person living on earth at the time, and he walked in close fellowship with God

iii. Amp...

Noah was a just *and* righteous man, blameless *in* his [evil] generation; Noah walked [in habitual fellowship] with God.

Note: Here is the key to finding favor or grace with God

- i. Walk with God
- ii. Walking with God will enable you to be just and perfect in your generation
- iii. Walking with God will enable you to be blameless
- iv. Thus, by walking with God, you find grace and favor in the eyes of God.

B. Let us see how Noah acted upon his faith and how faith influenced his mind and practice

1. Let us see how faith affected Noah's mind

- a. He was moved with fear
 - i. Fear is not being afraid, but in the Greek it indicate "reverence"
 - ii. So Noah, out of reverence and awe for God, acted cautiously and circumspectly
 - iii. So Noah, out of reverence and aw for God, heeded the warning of judgment and acted accordingly.

Note: Here is a lesson for you and I, to teach us to heed the warnings of God.

- i. We will die, so be ready.
- ii. We will face God, so let us be ready.
- iii. Christ is returning, so be ready.

Note: In other words, out of respect, reverence and awe of God, let us act cautiously and circumspectly by preparing ourselves through Christ to be ready for that divine appointment when we will face God.

- b. Faith will influence our affection and then our actions
- c. Faith works upon our affections to cause us to act suitable to the matter revealed.

d. Faith stirs up our and love and desire to please God, and faith stirs up our reverence (fear) for God.

2. Noah's faith influenced his practice, or his life

a. His fear (reverence), being excited by believing God's threatening, moved him to prepare an ark.

b. His reverence for God's revelation moved Noah to complete the ark regardless of opposition, of which there must have been some.

c. Noah moved by his faith in God's revelations did not argue with God about the reason for an ark, but he simply obeyed God.

d. Noah's faith stopped any objection he may have had, and his faith put him to work in earnest.

C. Let us look at the rewards and blessings of Noah's faith

1. Noah and his household were saved, while a world of sinners perished around them.

a. God saved Noah's family for Noah's sake

b. Noah's family was blessed because they were his family.

c. Those daughter-in-laws could have married richer and more influential people, perhaps, but then they would have perished for their salvation and safety came from being Noah's daughter-in-laws.

d. It is a blessing to be related to a praying person.

Note Isaiah 44:1-5 shows us that even today, children are blessed by praying parents.

1) Yet now hear, O Jacob my servant; and Israel, whom I have chosen: 2) Thus saith the Lord that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen. 3) For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring: 4) And they shall spring up as among the grass, as willows by the water courses. 5) One shall say, I am the Lord's; and another shall call himself by the name of Jacob; and another shall subscribe with his hand unto the Lord, and surname himself by the name of Israel.

2. Noah judged and condemned the world through his faith

a. Noah's holy fear and reverence for God condemned the world in their security and vain confidence.

- b. Noah's faith condemned his generation's unbelief;
- c. Noah's obedience condemned his world's contempt and rebellion.

Note the following:

- i. Good examples will either convert sinners or condemn them.
 - ii. There is something very convincing in a life of strict holiness and regard to God
 - iii. A life of holiness commends itself to every man's conscience in the sight of God, and they are judged by it.
 - iv. Our life of holiness and righteousness is the best way for the people of God to get the attention of the lost, for they become condemned by our lifestyle without us speaking.
3. Noah because of his faith became an heir of the righteousness which is by faith.
- a. Noah was possessed of a true justifying righteousness, for he was heir to it.

Note: We are heirs of God, joint-heirs with Christ, so we are heir of righteousness which is by faith for we possess a justifying righteousness through Christ as we live in faith.

- b. Noah was an heir of righteousness by faith in and through the Promised Seed, Jesus Christ.
- c. Those people of faith in the Old Testament moved in faith looking forward to Christ, while we in the New Testament move in faith looking back to Christ
- d. Christ stands as the center focus of the Bible, and Christ stands as the center focus of time, for the things before Him are B.C. while the things following Christ are A.D.
 - i. A.D. is anno Domini which means "in the year of the Lord."
 - ii. The complete phrase for A.D. is "anno Domini nostri Jesu Christi", which translates to "in the year of our Lord Jesus Christ".

Note in conclusion

Noah by faith built an ark to saving of his household at God's warning and direction, and you and I, if we desire to go with Christ, must by faith get on board the Ark of Safety, which is Christ Jesus our Lord. There is no other way into heaven except through Christ, and that must be done in faith.