

Building Our Faith....

....By the Examples of Abel and Enoch

Introduction

1. I am excited about beginning this series of lessons on building our faith.
 - A. The whole essence of our life centers on our faith and the hope of gaining eternal salvation.
2. The stronger our faith is, the better our service to God will be.
 - A. When we have a weak faith, then we also will be weak in our service.
3. Therefore, we need to build our faith so as to be able to have confidence in our God and steadfastness in our work for Him.
4. It is said that the “just shall live by faith.”
Hebrews 10:34-39
 - A. The writer’s argument in this epistle was to keep Christians from apostatizing and relapsing back into Judaism (old law).
 - 1) They were undergoing trials and tribulations to the extent that it could expose them greatly to the danger of relapse.
 - B. Faith was the answer to secure them from this apostasy.
 - 1) Of such great importance is faith, that the writer spends an entire chapter (11) talking of the nature and effect of faith.

5. The Object of these lessons:

- A. To show that faith, or confidence in God's promises has been in all ages the means of perseverance in true religion and consequently salvation!**
- B. To know that our true faith will allow us to confront and conquer trials and tribulations.**

6. Let us never under estimate the importance of belief or faith.

- A. We cannot be saved by faith alone, neither can we be saved without it.**
- B. We cannot be saved by "faith only," but we can be lost by unbelief only.**
 - 1) That is because it requires ALL the items of God's plan of salvation in order to be pleasing to God, to have salvation.**
 - 2) Faith is the motive power of all our actions as chapter 11 will show us.**

What Is Faith?

- 1. We start with one of the most important verses in all of the Bible, this is the very foundation of our Christian walk.**

Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is the **substance** of things hoped for, the **evidence** of things not seen.”

- A. There are some verses that we should commit to memory, this is one of them, and the other is:**

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

- 1) Let’s make this our goal today and the days and weeks that follow as we strive to increase our faith.**

- 2. What does verse 1 really mean?**

- A. Substance: “confidence”**

- 1) Faith gives reality or “substance” of things hoped for.**
- 2) When we have “substance” (reality) to our faith, it enables us to feel and act as if it was as real as if we had actually seen.**

- B. Evidence: “something that tends to prove”**

- 1) Our Bible, God’s word is the written evidence - proving God and Christ.**

- 3. There is no better way for us to understand faith, than to let the Bible, using examples of long ago, speak to us concerning faith.**

Abel

1. Verse 4: "though he being dead still speaks."

Hebrews 12:24 Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.

2. It is Abel's faith in God and the price that he was willing to pay for it that really speaks to us today.

- A. His faith should cause us to pattern our own faith after his.
(Hebrews 11:6) I will use Hebrews 11:6 often in this series.

3. He was the first believer (that we know of), to present an offering acceptable to God.

4. Let's look at some of the ways in which his faith was displayed:

- A. In Worship

Genesis 4:3-4

Romans 10:17

- 1) The way we approach God in worship does matter

John 4:23-24

Psalms 51:15-17

- B. In Obedience

- 1) Abel's faith moved him to obey His God.

- 2) So must we exhibit a faith to obey:

Luke 6:46

John 14:15

Hebrews 5:9

C. In Endurance

- 1) **Who knows, Cain may have tried to influence Abel to compromise his faith:**

Genesis 4:8 Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

- 2) **He remained faithful and so must we, even against the influence of evil:**
1 Corinthians 15:33

5. Abel was a righteous man because of his great faith.

1 John 3:10-12 For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and **his brother's righteous**.

- A. **God accepted Abel's offering because it was done in faith, resulting in righteousness.**

6. Abel suffered because of his faith in God

- A. His blood was shed because of envy and jealousy. However, the blood of Christ is better than the blood of Abel (Hebrews 12:24).
 - 1) Abel's blood was violently taken; Christ's was willingly offered
 - 2) Abel's blood cried for vengeance; Christ's pleads for mercy
 - 3) Abel's blood did not cleanse his sin; Christ's purifies the soul
Hebrews 9:14-15

Abel's Summary

- 1. **Key verse - Hebrews 11:4: "He being dead, still speaks"**
 - A. He continues to speak to the world of the cost and the consolation of faith!
 - B. He was faithful and righteous, willing to suffer for godliness.
- 2. **Key thought - Suffering**
 - A. Abel was not willing to compromise his faith. He was obedient to the point of death in obedience to his God.
 - B. May we all learn that a deep faith in God will cause us to suffer for Him.

2 Tim 3:12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

Enoch

Genesis 5:23-24 So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

Hebrews 11:5

1. **Enoch is mentioned in verse 5 of the eleventh chapter. We know very little about Enoch but we do know:**
 - A. **The Enoch of verse 5 is mentioned 10 times in the Bible.**
 - B. **He was born of Jared and the oldest man in the Bible was the son of Enoch (Methuselah).**
 - C. **He “walked with God” for 300 years and then God took him.**
 - D. **He believed that He truly was the God and diligently sought Him. (V6)**
2. **He was obviously a very devout man, a man that so pleased God, that God took him home.**
 - A. **A little boy explained the story of Enoch: “God and Enoch were walking one day and God said, Enoch, come home with me. And he did.”**

Enoch's Summary

1. **Key Verse - Hebrews 11:5 "he pleased God."**
 - A. We learn that the truly faithful will have an earnest desire to "walk with God" in all aspects of their life.

2. **Key thought - Steadfastness**
 - A. **300 plus years of continual, unwavering service to God. God was pleased with his consistency in service.**

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Next week:

Building Our Faith.....by the example of NOAH

