

Building Our Faith....

Through the Hall of Faith (2)

Introduction

- 1. Last week we discussed our need to build our faith so as to be able to have confidence in our God and steadfastness in our work for Him.**
- 2. 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 show there is power in faith to keep the mind and heart, in midst of trials and tribulations, having examples before us, to adhere steadfastly to the profession of our faith.**
- 3. Last week we learned that a strong faith is a faith that is one which will suffer and remain steadfast for the cause of Christ as we learned in the character examples of Abel and Enoch.**
 - A. We have learned the following:**
 - 1) Heb 11:1**
 - 2) Heb 11:6**
 - 3) Abel - Suffering - *"he being dead, still speaks"***
 - 4) Enoch - Steadfastness - *"he pleased God"***
- 4. Tonight, we will progress through the hall of faith and learn about another important Bible character to help us establish a firm faith in our Lord.**

Noah

Hebrews 11:7

(Age 950 — 600 years before the flood, 350 years after the flood)

1. Noah means “to comfort”

Gen 5:29 And he called his name Noah, saying, "This one will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD has cursed."

A. Noah was certainly a comforting example of faith for all ages!

2. Noah was described as an “*heir of the righteousness which is by faith.*”

A. Yet his righteous life was not without mistakes

Gen 9:21 Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent.

1) Nor was his life without challenges - and neither will ours.

3. If Noah can succeed in faithfulness, surely we can too.

The Times of Noah

1. **As bad as we may think our world is at times, a closer look will show us that the days of Noah were worse (Gen 6).**
 - A. **Wickedness of man (V5)**
 - B. **Every intent of the thoughts of his heart was evil continually (V5)**
 - C. **Corrupt (V11)**
 - D. **Filled with violence (V11, 13)**
 - E. **All flesh corrupted their way (V12)**
 - F. **Statements by Jesus and Peter shows that the inhabitants of Noah's world also engaged in normal activities of life-matters not inherently sinful, but apparently distracting them from spiritual considerations and service.
Matthew 24:36-39**

2 Peter 2:5 and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;

- G. **Though limited, it was a time of God's longsuffering which gave the unrighteous an opportunity to repent**

Gen 6:3 And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Noah's Faith

1. **To CONSTANTLY face the pressures of a corrupt society and remain pure requires a great and awesome faith!**
 - A. **These same standards have been put in place for Christians today.**

Phil 2:15-16 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

Phil 1:27-28 Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.

2. Let's look at how Noah's faith sustained him through his life.

A. We first must look at the **BASIS OF NOAH'S FAITH:**

“Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen,”

- 1) Noah had seen **NOTHING** else upon which to ground his faith up to this time in his life. His faith (confidence) could be tested by reason of:
 - a. No deluge of rain had happened before.
 - b. The world had never changed before, why now?
 - c. Some other doubts:
 1. Would God destroy humans?
 2. Would God destroy creatures?
 3. Would God destroy all the beauty of earth?
 - d. Noah could have reasoned:
 1. Why would God let my family be spared? We are sinners also (Rom 3:23), Why have mercy on just our family and no other? I'm just a minority here.
- 2) Noah had **ONLY God's word** and his faith rested solely and completely on that word. It was all Noah needed to sustain him.
 - a. Sadly, many people today would not do and act as Noah did.

B. Secondly, we must look at the **EXPRESSION OF NOAH'S FAITH:**

***“Noah, moved with godly fear,
prepared an ark for the saving of his household”***

1) Noah's faith was manifested by obedience to directions.

Gen 6:14-16 "Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch. And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it with lower, second, and third decks.

2) His faith was expressed in a truly remarkable way. Notice the great magnitude of the work he performed — based on pure faith:

a. The dimensions of the ark spelled out in 6:15, assuming that the cubit represented 21 inches, then the ark would be:

- 1. 525 feet long (75' short of two football fields)**
- 2. 87 feet, 6 inches wide**
- 3. 52 feet, 6 inches high**

b. It was a work of long duration, again, sustained only by faith!

c. His work was most certainly prosecuted by many.

- 1. Others must have thought he was crazy. He endured sarcasm and ridicule, yet he pressed on!**

C. Finally, we look at the **RESULT OF NOAH'S FAITH:**

“By which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith”

- 1) We have two parts under consideration in this last part of the verse which was the result of Noah's faith.
 - a. There was a condemnation of the unbelievers that took place.
 1. Noah's holy fear of God, condemned their security and vain confidence in themselves.
 2. His faith condemned their unbelief, his obedience condemned their rebellion.
 3. Good examples will either convert sinners or condemn them!
 - b. He became heir of the righteous people of God that lived as a result of their faith in God.
 1. He was a righteous man before the command to build the ark.
 2. But the building of the ark exemplified his faith. In other words, he not only believed, but his belief, **his faith**, caused him to **DO God's will**.

Noah's Summary and Application

1. Key verse - Hebrews 11:7: "moved with godly fear"

- A. It was Noah's genuine fear of God, knowing He had the power to set in motion anything He wanted, that motivated him to live a righteous life for the saving of himself and his household.

2. Key thought - Perseverance (Patience)

1 Peter 3:20when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.

- A. Noah had to exhibit great patience while building the ark and at the same time preaching to a sarcastic, ridiculing, unrepentant audience.

3. We have learned several things through the faithful Noah about how we can develop a deep and abiding faith in our great God:

- A. There is justice, mercy, severity, and kindness in God.
- B. It is foolish to refuse to obey a thing simply because it may seem improbable or to us incomprehensible (Such as baptism).
- C. The scriptures of God announce the destruction and judgment to come. We must accept that based upon faith
Hebrews 11:1
- D. Salvation is only going to be realized by those that truly understand that
Hebrews 11:6

Next week:

A walk through the "hall of faith," reflecting on the example of Abraham

