

What Kind Of Faith Do I Have?

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Hebrews 11:1-10

Heb. 11:1-3, *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.”*

Faith is confident assurance for that which we hope.

A conviction of the things we do not see.

Faith is the **eye** of the soul.

Obedience is the **hand** of the soul.

Heb. 11:2, *“For by it the elders obtained a good report.”* — Examples from the ancient fathers.

For their faith, men of old gained approval from God.

Two relationships of faith:

- The future — a hopeful outlook.
- The unseen — the evidence of their reality.

A worshipping faith

- Heb. 11:4, *“By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.”*
- Gen. 4:1-5, *“And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD. And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.”*

Abel offers sacrifice.

Faith prompted him to worship in accordance to God's Word.

Rom. 10:17, "*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*"

Faith comes by hearing the Word of God.

We conclude therefore that God had directed him how to worship.

Heb. 11:4, "*By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.*"

His faithful worship (sacrifice) showed his righteousness (being right with God).

Three kinds of sacrifice is expected from the Christian.

Sacrifice of praise, the fruit of our lips (praying and singing).

Heb. 13:15, "*By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.*"

A living sacrifice, our bodies.

Rom. 12:1-2, "*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*"

Our gifts or offerings to God are termed as sacrifice.

Phil. 4:18, "*But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.*"

Influence continues — Still speaking to us.

Gen. 4:10, "*And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.*"

What does his blood cry out?

That only faithful worship is pleasing to God.

Heb. 12:24, "*And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.*"

He made the right sacrifice — man needs to sacrifice self today.

Rom. 12:1, "*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*"

Abel's faith was a faith that prompted worship according to God's word.

A walking faith

- Heb. 11:5, *“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.”*
- Gen. 5:22-24, *“And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years: And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.”*

Enoch walked with God in a day when others were walking away from God.

Gen. 6:5, *“And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”*

“Walking” has to do with the way one lives.

This kind of faith lives the way God wants you to live.

This kind of faith has the power to form character, and does not fear death.

Rev. 1:18, *“I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.”*

Jesus has the keys of death and Hades (grave).

“Translated” into the kingdom.

Col. 1:13, *“Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.”*

He pleased God.

His life was pleasing to God. Without faith we can't be pleasing.

What about your life? How are you living? walking? doing? saying? church? family?

Enoch's was a faith that lived the way God wanted him to live.

A working faith

Noah had a working faith.

- Heb. 11:7, *“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.”*
- Gen. 6:13-22, *“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. Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch. 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. 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. 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. But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons’ wives with thee. And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; they shall be male and female. Of fowls after their kind, and of cattle after their kind, of every creeping thing of the earth after his kind, two of every sort shall come unto thee, to keep them alive. And take thou unto thee of all food that is eaten, and thou shalt gather it to thee; and it shall be for food for thee, and for them. Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.”*

What did Noah Do? He heeded the warning of God.

Noah took God at His word. The only proof Noah had of an impending flood was what God told him.

Again we see that his faith was founded on God’s word.

Noah “Prepared” an ark for the saving of his family from the flood.

This kind of faith “prepares” for a great day of God’s Judgment.

Noah’s preparation involved:

- A work of a great magnitude — it was a great ark!
- A work of a great duration — worked apparently 120 building the ark.

Gen. 6:3, “*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.*”

Are you working? What are you doing? Are you continuing, enduring faithfully?

The faith that pleases God is a faith that prepares for the great day of Judgment.

Christians heeded Christ’s warning regarding the fall of Jerusalem, 70 A.D.

Matt. 24:16, “*Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains.*”

Do we heed the warning not to get entangled with the world today?

2 Tim. 2:4, “*No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.*”

Noah “prepared” for the great Day of God? Men need to prepare now!

Noah worked as God directed.

Gen. 6:22, “*Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.*”

Did what God said, the way God said. God made the revelation, Noah followed.

Started with His own house. Salvation of own house is of first importance.

Noah’s faith was an example to that world. His obedience stood as condemnation to those who would not obey God.

His obedience to faith shows his righteousness.

Made righteous by his obedience to faith.

Noah was the first man in the Bible to be called “righteous” or “just”.

A willing faith

Abraham had a willing faith.

Heb. 11:8-10, “*By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.*”

Gen. 12:1-3, “Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

Abraham left his home country. By faith he obeyed and was called the “Friend of God”.

James 2:23, “And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.”

God called him and he responded. Abraham had faith in God’s word.

Gen. 12:1-3, “Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

He made the right choice.

Gen. 22:1-18, “And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him. Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off. And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you. And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together. And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together. And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he

said, *Here am I. And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me. And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son. And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen. And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.*"

He was willing to offer his son. He obeyed when a considerable sacrifice was involved. Obedience is the acid test of Faith!

He made his dwellings temporary (lived in tents, not "houses")

He lived in a strange country. Heb. 11:9, "*By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise.*"

Let us realize this earth is NOT our home. We are THE aliens here.

Phil. 3:20, "*For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.*"

He looked for a heavenly city.

Heb. 11:10, "*For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.*"

Abraham's faith looked beyond this world. He was willing to make life an adventure; and willing to have patience.

This kind of faith believes the future is directed by the present.

The faith that pleases God is the faith that obeys.

- John 14:15, "*If ye love me, keep my commandments.*"
- Heb. 5:8-9, "*Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him,*"

We say, "I want to wait until I know just where I'm going!"

Don't say, "I want to wait until I am sure I can live as a Christian."

What kind of faith do you have?

Conclusion

Heb. 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.*”

The writer had defined faith (vs. 1-3), and gives examples of men of great faith, and what their faith did to please God.

Without **this kind of faith** we cannot be pleasing to God.

This is the kind of faith the writer wrote about in verse 6, which stands as our conclusion.

Our faith to please God must be:

- A **WORSHIPPING** faith — that worships according to God’s directions.
- A **WALKING** faith — that transforms character and lives the way God wants us to.
- A **WORKING** faith — that will prepare oneself for God’s great day of judgment.
- A **WILLING** faith — that will obey God’s every command - and look beyond this world.

We expect faithfulness and reliability from things and other people. Does not God expect the same from us? The problem is that in our religious activities we see ourselves as volunteers rather than as duty bound. For a volunteer, almost anything seems acceptable. For a bond-servant who is duty bound, faithfulness is expected.

