

The Faith of Noah

Hebrews 11:7

INTRODUCTION:

- A. **Hebrews 11:7** – “By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.”
1. These **41** words speak volumes about a Bible character we each have known about for most of our lives.
 2. Taking place during the Patriarchal Age . . .
 - a. Noah was born approximately **126** years after Adam’s death, and Adam died at age **960**. Adam’s lifespan was only nine years short of Methuselah’s.
 - b. About **427** years after the flood, Abraham would be born.
 - c. These were interesting times in Bible History.
 - d. Noah is now **600** years old.
- B. While Noah is mentioned some **59** times throughout the Bible in **11** of its **66** Books, the events in his story are recorded in Genesis 6-9 with references to his genealogy in chapter 10.
- C. It is only fitting to find Noah’s name listed when the roll of faith is called in Hebrews 11.
1. In Hebrews 11’s 40 verses, the expression “By faith” appears some **19** x
 2. I find it interesting that the verse just before our lesson text says: “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.” **Hebrews 11:6**
 3. Putting the two verses together we observe: “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. By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.” **Hebrews 11:6-7**
- D. Mentioned just after Enoch and right before Abraham, Hebrews 11:7 is a passage worthy of study and application of its principles.

“BY FAITH”

- A. We need to know what faith is.
1. There is a false faith and many have it.

- a. Some people choose to believe things revealed by someone other than God.
 - b. Some people choose to put their faith in the writings of men rather than in the Bible.
2. True faith involves believing God’s Word and doing what it says.
- a. **Hebrews 11:1** – “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”
 - b. Though the flood was some 120 years in the future, Noah believed God and began doing what God asked him to do . . . Build an ark.
 - c. **Genesis 6:13-14** – “And God said to Noah, ‘The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.
14 Make yourself an ark of gopher-wood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch.’”
 - d. Although the reality of what God had said was as of yet unseen, Noah’s faith led him to get busy doing what God said in preparation for what God said was going to happen.
3. Hasn’t God spoken to us, too?
- a. Yes, He speaks to us through the Bible. Just as with Noah, if we truly believe what God says . . . We will do what God instructs.
 - b. Noah was “divinely warned” and acted . . . We are divinely warned and should act. “Faith without works (actions) is dead.” **James 2:20, 24.**
4. “By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.” **Hebrews 11:7**

TO LIVE BY FAITH MAY NOT ALWAYS BE EASY

- A. Faith puts people to work.
1. It did Noah . . . He built an ark.
 2. It did Abraham . . . He left his native home and traveled some 900 miles to a land he had never seen.
 3. It did Moses . . . At age 80 he returned to Egypt to confront Pharaoh and liberate God’s people from Egyptian bondage.
 4. It did Gideon . . . He had to leave the security of his hidden threshing floor and lead 300 men against 135,000 Midianites.
- B. Bible faith is active faith . . . The faith of the Bible does the things in the Bible according to the directions and commandments of God.
- C. Faith sets us against the ways of the world.
1. Noah went to work building the ark.
 2. His life condemned those who did not believe him when he told them what God had said.

3. He was ridiculed . . . Disliked . . . Criticized . . . Resented . . . And not followed.
4. This happened over a long, 120-year period of time.
5. Those who live by faith may go through pain.
 - a. They may be tempted to give up.
 - b. They may be tempted to turn back.
 - c. They may be tempted to throw in the proverbial towel.
6. Noah experienced rejection because he was different from his neighbors.
 - a. God commanded him to build a huge boat in the middle of dry land, and although God’s command seemed foolish, Noah obeyed.
 - b. As you obey God, don’t be surprised if others regard you as “different.”
 - c. **Your obedience makes their disobedience stand out.**
7. The truest of reward comes at the end of our faith rather than during it.

TO LIVE BY FAITH MAY IS A BLESSING TO OTHERS

- A. From a mere human and secular perspective Noah may be judged as a failure.
 1. He had preached God’s warning for 120 years and no one believed him and repented.
 2. It must have been discouraging day after day . . . Month after month . . . Year after year.
- B. However . . . Noah was not a failure . . . He saved his own household.
 1. His family knew him and followed his teaching.
 2. Our faith influences our family members.
 3. Is it not a great thing to have a hope of seeing your family . . . Your children, in Heaven?

FAITH MOVES WITH “GODLY FEAR”

- A. Does that sound strange? Let me explain.
 1. “Godly fear” is the fear of going wrong . . . Of not doing it the exact way God said to do it.
 2. Our religious world needs “Godly fear.”
 3. Noah must measure the size of the ark carefully.
 - a. It must be 300 cubits long . . . Not 299 (too short) . . . Not 301 (too long) . . . Why 300? Because God said so and that is the only explanation needed.
 - b. It must be 50 cubits wide . . . Not 49 (too narrow) . . . Not 51 (too wide) . . . Why 50 ? Because God said so and that is the only explanation needed.
 - c. It must be 30 cubits high . . . Not 29 (too short) . . . Not 31 (too tall) . . . Why 30? Because God said so and that is the only explanation needed.

d. Illustrate with:

1. Willing to believe . . . But not repent. (too short)
2. Willing to repent . . . but not confess Christ. (too short)
3. Willing to repent and confess Christ . . . But not be baptized. (too short)

B. We must be careful to do what God says exactly the way God says to do it.

1. **1 Corinthians 4:6** – “. . . That you may learn in us **not to think beyond what is written . . .**”
2. **Numbers 22:18** – “Then Balaam answered and said to the servants of Balak, ‘Though Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not go beyond the word of the LORD my God, **to do less or more.**’”
3. Don’t let your guard down . . . Handle the Word of God correctly.

FAITH AND “GODLY FEAR” WILL LEAD YOU TO WHERE GOD WANTS YOU LED

A. Please observe:

1. The ark was finished, and Noah and his family were saved.
2. Abraham arrived in the land of Canaan and began to inhabit the land in which his lineage would later bring forth the Savior of the world.
3. Moses followed God and brought the people of Israel out of Egypt and positioned them to be led into Canaan by Joshua.
4. Gideon was victorious over the vast number of his enemies.

B. For us . . . Heaven will be our home.

1. May we . . . Like Abraham . . . “Wait for a city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.” **Hebrews 11:10**
2. Unless we have enough faith to faithfully do what God has commanded, we will not be able to live in the city to provided at the end of our faith.

CONCLUSION:

A. God wants you to do some building. Romans 10:17 (faith, family, others)

B. I know you have some faith . . . But:

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| 1. Is it a false faith? | 5. Is it an obedient faith? |
| 2. Is it a little faith? | 6. Is it a working faith? |
| 3. Is it a weak faith? | 7. Is it Biblical faith . . . the faith that saves? |
| 4. Is it a non-obedient faith? | |

B. It is one thing to hear the message . . . It is still another to act on it.

The obedience does not come in the believing . . . but in the carrying out of God’s word.

C. Noah’s faith led him to obey the words of God . . . Has your faith led you to obey God?

D. **God’s Plan for Man’s Salvation**