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12:58



Faith Declares Jesus is Better: Part 2

Social Media Quote: "There are many people who believe in God, but they don't believe God. They are not convinced that if they give themselves entirely to God, God will give Himself entirely to them."

Hebrews 11:5-12

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prayer service/walk - tonight 6:00 pm civic center park at City Hall.

Thx for golf tourney

Movers and shakers event moved inside tomorrow.

2nd service baby dedication - Isabella Lane Grzenda 8/17/21

Parents: Jake (Jacob) & Becky (Rebeka) Grzenda

Isabella is the Spanish and Italian variation of [Elizabeth](#), which is derived from the [Hebrew](#) name Elisheba. Its meaning translates to "God is my oath."

[Num 6:24-26 NKJV] 24 "The LORD bless you and keep you; 25 The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; 26 The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace." '

INTRO

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We are on week 2 in our discover

We have learned that faith is not something we believe, but something we do. What we do this side of heave reveals our true convictions about what we really believe about the unseen promises of God.

Warren Wiersbe writes, *“The best way for faith to grow is to walk with the faithful.”* And the author of Hebrews would agree.

Faith is the substance and evidence in this life that our eternal reality is secured and will be delivered in Christ. Last week, we begin our walk through the examples of faith in the Old Testament.

- Abel teaches us that faith sacrifices the temporal for the eternal. Faith recognizes that there is no sacrifice on this side of heaven that is too great that Jesus is not still worthy of it.

Well, the list of teachers continues Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and his wife Sarah.

BIBLE VERSE

Hebrews 11:5-12 (NKJV) 5 By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, “and was not found, because God had taken him”; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. 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. 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. 8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as [in] a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; 10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker [is] God. 11 By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. 12 Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born [as many] as the stars of the sky in multitude--innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

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1 Faith Pleases God

BIBLE VERSE

[Heb 11:5 NKJV] 5 By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

APPLICATION

In Genesis 5, moving down the line, we read this vague and small record of Enoch's life. His testimony from Genesis?

[Gen 5:22-24 NKJV] 22 After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters. 23 So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. 24 And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

The name Enoch in Hebrew means "Dedicated." Certainly, Enoch walked with God in a dedicated way because of faith.

- Simply put, it takes faith to walk with God in a wicked world, believing that one day God will take you to be with Him.
 - We don't know much about Enoch, but Jude tells us that He prophesied as moved by the Holy Spirit.
 - **[Jde 1:14-15 NKJV] 14 Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, 15 "to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the horrible things that they have done and forgotten against Him."**

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- Enoch saw a fu

judgment on the wicked. He didn't know when, but his confident knowledge about the future gave him the wherewithal to walk by faith, and live his life in a way that pleased the Lord.

- We know the world was wicked in Enoch's day, because of the commentary we get on the earth when it reaches Noah. The wickedness of man had filled the earth, and the thoughts and intentions of their hearts were continually evil all the time. Enoch was obviously a man who went against the flow and grain of His culture to live righteously before God and to walk intimately in His light.

Again, it wasn't Enoch's righteousness that earned him God's favor, but the fact that his righteousness was motivated by faith. And what did Enoch obtain through his faith? ***He was raptured/translated by God.***

- To where? Don't know. I do know this, he is the only person in the history of the world that we know did not physically die!
- I personally believe that God did this to foreshadow the mystery we call the rapture of the church. That there will be a day when a generation of believers (I hope it's this one), like Enoch, will not taste death but be caught up in the air, transformed in the twinkling of an eye, and forever be with the Lord!
 - **[1Co 15:51-52 NIV] 51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed-- 52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.**
- But that promise is only to those who are walking by faith with God and awaiting His return!

I know that it's difficult these days to walk with Christ when the perverse and wicked culture around us is giving us so many other options, but we must resolve to walk with God! To believe His word, to remain in the vine, to stand up for Christ and the gospel, and not compromise his truth and righteousness. This all requires faith in the unseen.

BIBLE VERSE

[Heb 11:6 NKJV] 6 But without faith God must believe that He is, and

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THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF PLEASING GOD

I want to point out the word, “Impossible” here. It’s not difficult, unlikely, or challenging... it’s impossible. Enoch PLEASED God only because Enoch chose faith in God over the idols of the culture.

Don't you want to please God?

- The pleasure that God has toward a human being is dependent on one thing: FAITH.
- Well, Josh, I believe! Do you know what John says about that? **You do well, for even the demons believe and tremble.**
- The kind of belief that leads to eternal life is the faith described in Hebrews 11. Genuine saving faith is a faith that changes us every day. If I truly am trusting Christ unto salvation, then my life will be marked by the fruit of that faith.
- Without that kind of faith, God will not find pleasure in my life.
- And notice how he makes sure not to limit faith merely to an intellectual belief.

WHAT TRUE FAITH BELIEVES

...for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

It's not merely believing that God is real, but believing that the pursuit of God will be met with His reward.

True faith believes in the existence of God, but also in the character of God. It's one thing to say, "Yeah, God is real." But the true test of faith is to pursue God, believing that when you do, He will meet you in a personal and powerful way.

QUOTE

“*There are many people who convinced that if they give th*

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them.

Pastor Josh

APPLICATION

Those who find value in seeking the Lord, won't regret it. Jesus told us to ask and it will be given, seek and we will find, knock and the door shall be opened. It takes faith to believe those promises, but greater faith to act on them.

God doesn't want to hide, nor does he want to be ignored as an afterthought. He is willing and desiring to bring blessing, wisdom, clarity, peace, and strength to any and all who have the faith to pursue Him.

Many of us today get disappointed in God before we've even put in the effort to diligently seek His face on an issue. There have been times when I've been frustrated with what God did or didn't do, but only because, in those times, my heart wasn't aligned with His. I forced my expectation of God rather than humbly and diligently seeking Him. ***There has not been one time that I've genuinely sought the Lord and come out disappointed.***

The reward of His presence is great for those who approach Him by faith.

2 Faith prepares for the unseen future

BIBLE VERSE

[Heb 11:7 NKJV] 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 th

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OUTLINE

Noah's story is found in Genesis chapters 6-9. The world Noah lived in was described in this way:

Gen 6:11-12 NKJV – 11 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. 12 So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.

It was due to this state of rebellion and wickedness that God divinely warned Noah of the coming judgment upon the earth. To the natural mind, the declaration of God would have seemed absurd:

- Up to that point, it had not even rained upon the earth, and now it was going to flood with water from the sky?
- There needs to be a boat big enough to carry two of each kind of species that will take 50 + years to build?
- All people are going to be destroyed even though things seem to be going just fine for everyone on the earth?
- Noah was a righteous man amongst an utterly wicked population who had no idea of the impending judgment they were building up for themselves due to their wicked thoughts, intentions, and actions.
- From Noah's perspective, it could have been incredibly difficult to understand this warning from God. Many times he probably felt bound to be alone and defeated amongst wickedness. Many times he must have questioned, "How will God do this? This seems impossible. It doesn't make sense. How long will He wait? I'm sick of being the laughingstock of the earth." Yet, he didn't let his earthly sight and natural perception detour Him from obedience. His faith and fear of God kept him focused on the mission, and we all owe him a debt of gratitude for that faith!

Verse 7 sums up Noah's faith in five statements:

1. **He was WARNED of God's coming judgment**
2. **He was MOVED with godly fear**
3. **He PREPARED for his family's salvation**
4. **He CONDEMNED the unbelieving world**
5. **He BECAME an heir of righteousness**

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APPLICATION

These 5 things are powerful in light of the world and times we live in today. Regarding the future judgment of God upon the earth, Jesus warned us:

Luk 17:26-27 NKJV – 26 “And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: 27 “They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

Things look more and more every day like the days of Noah; people casting God from their life and thinking, rebelling in their hearts, becoming their own god. Love has grown cold and hatred abounds. **As Christians, these 5 attributes of Noah's faith apply now more than ever!**

1.) We too have been warned that God will again judge the earth in righteousness:

- ***Not with water, but with fire.*** Trust me, global warming of 1.5 degrees Celcius is the least of the earth's concerns. God, Himself will bring global warming with fervent heat strong enough to melt and destroy the building blocks of the physical universe. I don't believe the universe started with a Big Bang, but I certainly believe it is going to end with one!
- Jesus has warned us that he is returning as a judge and has told us that there is an ark of salvation! Whoever will come into the ark of Jesus Christ can and will be saved! But

how does that motivate us? We too must be moved with godly fear:

2.) He was moved with godly fear:

- The scripture clearly tells us that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
- **Noah believed that God was not only capable of fulfilling His Word, but that he was committed to fulfilling His word... and this put a healthy level of fear in Noah's heart.**
- I've heard it said that a Christian shouldn't be afraid of God. In Jesus, there is a big chunk of truth in that statement. In Christ, we have passed from His judgment. His perfect love has cast out all fear of judgment and has drawn us near to Him as sons and daughters. But there is a level of fear, reverence, and awe that the Christian ought to have of God. Just because God is our friend and Father doesn't mean that he has lost his power and His holiness. He is still the God who dwells in unapproachable light: the God whom angels dare not look upon, the God whom they are dead when in His presence, the God whom they tremble at the thought! I fear God, because I know when He returns as a judge, I will be there.

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entire earth!

- And that fear should motivate me to action!

BIBLE VERSE

[Pro 29:25 NKJV] 25 The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.

QUOTE

“ *When you are moved with godly fear, you will be unmoved by the fear of man.*

APPLICATION

QUESTION: What is the fear of man keeping you from that the fear of God might move you toward? That's faith; when the fear of the Lord inspires greater obedience.

CUSTOM

3.) He prepared an ark for his family:

- Godly fear does move us to action. If Jesus is coming back and judgment is real, then how am I putting my house in order?
- How am I preparing my children and my family to meet the Lord? Am I communicating to them with my life that this find are here, in this life? **Or** We've just updated Sermonary with some fresh goodness! Please reload the site or [click here to refresh!](#)
- I want my kids to grow up a

of worldly sense, but he did it to help us keep our eyes on heaven and remember that we have a mission for Christ on this earth.”

4.) He condemned the world:

- He didn't condemn the world necessarily through His words, but by His works of faith. In building the boat by faith, he was preaching a message of God's coming judgment and the world's wickedness. When the world mocked and rejected Moses' absurd behavior, they became condemned by their unwillingness to repent.
- Listen, God isn't calling us out on witch hunts to go around finding people to condemn. The Christian life will naturally bring with it condemnation to some who are opposed to the light of the gospel. When the light of Christ's righteousness shines

through us onto their darkness and instead of repenting they cling to their sin, it becomes condemnation to them.

Eph 5:11 NKJV – 11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

5.) He became an heir of righteousness through faith:

- **Rom 3:22 NKJV – 22 ...righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe.**
- And so we too, through the same faith are declared righteous, not by our deeds themselves, but by the faith that motivates the deeds.

APPLICATION

Noah teaches us that faith is rarely popular, but has great reward when one sticks with it!

3 Faith obeys in the face of the unknown

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ABRAHAM

Next, we move to the Father of Faith, Abraham.

The Jews prided themselves on being children of Abraham, but according to Paul's theology, the true children of Abraham are those who live by faith, not through the law of Moses.

We see Abraham's initial calling into God's promises was not through the law but through a faith-filled response to God's call.

BIBLE VERSE

[Heb 11:8-10 NKJV] 8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; 10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

CUSTOM

As with Noah, we see more positive actions associated with faith.

1.) He obeyed

2.) He dwelt

3.) He waited

Again these characteristics ought to mark our lives.

HE OBEYED

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You see, Noah obeyed without seeing, Abraham obeyed without knowing.

This is how we know Abraham was a true man... he went out not knowing where he was going! No GPS or maps for Abraham, he was being guided by God's heavenly direction!

He obeyed God even in the face of not knowing what it might cost him, or where it might take him. All he knew was that He heard God's voice, and chose to believe it. And Abraham didn't know God when He heard God's voice. He lived in a pagan, polytheistic land! That's faith!

I don't know about you, but I really like to be in control of what's happening next in my life. Naturally, I'm not a huge fan of stepping into the unknown simply because I believe God said to.

- I imagine that Abraham and Sarah had some interesting closed-door conversations! Hey sweetheart, God said we're moving. Pack up, and say goodbye to your family. Where are we going? Haven't quite ironed that out yet. How are we getting there? We will start by walking... that way.
- It's not that Abraham foolishly ignored the details of such a journey. I'm confident he prepared his flocks and family, his tents and supplies. Faith is not the lack of wisdom or preparation, but faith doesn't depend on knowing every detail about the end result.

Abraham simply believed that God would make the way possible as long as He was willing to take a step of obedience.

Too many of us are addicted to details. We love to know why!

It's been said, *"Faith though turns the "y" into an "o." Real faith doesn't need to know why when it knows Who!"*

HE DWELT

9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; 10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose b

We are told that once he got to the land, not as the owner of the land

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Author Kent Hughes helps us think of Abraham's faith in modern day terms,

“Imagine God promising you and your descendants the land of Guatemala, and then in obedience traveling there and living for the rest of your life in your camper, along with your sons’ families in their campers, moving from place to place. You remain an alien for the remainder of your sojourn, without full citizenship rights, a perpetual outsider.”

APPLICATION

In the past 17 years, I have lived in 9 cities, 11 houses/apartments, served in 7 churches, and have had three children. By God's grace and her patience, I've managed to maintain ONE wife through all that.

- There are many times I am flooded with memories from all those places and times and people. Those memories have their appropriate place. Many of them are good and make me smile. Some of them I'd rather forget. But they are all part of my life.
- ***But one has to be careful with memories because memories can cause you to long for what is behind you rather than move forward to what God has ahead of you.***
- Abraham and Sarah died not receiving the fullness of what God promised them in this life and this world. They still await, along with us, the complete fulfillment of God's promises.
- But through those uncertain times on earth, if they would have been allured by the comfort, security, and pleasure of where they came from, they could have easily abandoned God's far-off promises and gone back to settle for a temporary enjoyment of life.
- ***But they didn't. Instead, they desired what was ahead much more than what was behind.***

HE WAITED

Abraham believed that God was going to establish a heavenly city one day where He would dwell forever. He didn't want to stop at the best of what was behind. He wanted God's best.

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- ***You see, sometimes faith goes beyond the visible and the immediate.***
- It's our tendency to leave when things are uncertain, and stay when things are secure.

- It's our tendency to leave when things are uncertain, and stay when things are secure.
- Here, we see that sometimes faith leaves when things are good and secure, and stay when things are uncertain!
- Abraham left his home and family even though he had everything, then he stayed and waited in the promise land, even though it was less than ideal circumstances.
- The point, ***"Faith obeys God regardless of the external circumstances."***

APPLICATION

Of course, the application here is that we are all literally in a place of waiting. We too are sojourners, passing through this life awaiting the redemption of all things. This heaven and earth are only the temporary ones. Jesus will remake everything one day. The new one is the one you want to bank on, this one, well, it's best for us to live here with the mentality that we don't want to get too comfortable.

EXAMPLE: When I jumped into ministry, my Dad gave me a piece of advice. "Josh, don't get too comfortable." It was his way of exhorting me to a life of faith. Don't ever settle into something in a way that will keep you from taking risks for God! Don't get too settled in your routine that you stop pushing yourself to go into the unknown.

It's frightening advice, but good and biblical advice nonetheless! Above everything else in life, I want to be remembered as someone who said yes to God. I want to push through fear and uncertainty. I want to hold everything in this life loosely in faith, declaring that I too believe that the bet is yet to come.

QUOTE

“Abraham was willing to settle for a life of less in order to gain a greater, eternal inheritance.”

THE NATURE OF THE CITY TO C

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Which has foundations:

- In other words, Abraham looked around him at the land of promise and realized that's not where his security lay. His security was in the promise of God that He believed by faith and the greater promised land that he would one day inherit from God himself.

Who's builder and maker is God:

- What God builds cannot be shaken, stolen, destroyed, or contaminated. Everything we see around us now doesn't have firm foundations. Only Christ is a firm foundation.
- Do you want to settle for the best man can give you, or do you want to wait by faith for what God has prepared?

[1Co 2:9 NIV] 9 However, as it is written: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived"--the things God has prepared for those who love him--

4 Faith declares that God is faithful

BIBLE VERSE

[Heb 11:11-12 NKJV] 11 By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. 12 Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born [as many] as the stars of the sky in multitude--innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

SARAH

Remember, in order for God's promise would outnumber the stars, he had

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- Sarah was worried about this and that's where we have the tape of faith which

resulted in Hagar becoming pregnant with Ishmael.

- But regardless, God was still intending on keeping His promise.
- When Sarah was 90, Abraham 100, God told them that she was going to have a son. ***They were the first couple that could have claimed the elderly discount on the hospital maternity bill!***
- You know what her first response was? She laughed internally. God still heard her.
- But notice Hebrews doesn't bring that up. Even though she thought it ridiculous at first, something changed. ***She conceived because she believed.***
- ***Even though the promise was earthly impossible, she still judged that God was faithful!***

QUOTE

“***When we allow faith to overcome our cynicism, we make room for new things from God to be birthed in our lives.***

Josh

HER FAITH EVEN HELPED ABRAHAM

We are told that Abraham was as good as dead!

- Now remember that I didn't write this, but that language has a very clear meaning. It wasn't saying that he was almost going to die, but that at his age, his sexual function was no more.
- ***Isn't it just like God to take us to the point of impossibility only to show us just how great and powerful He is!!!***

And nearly 4000 years later, the physical descendants of Abraham are still around, still, carry their unique identity, and are still living in some of the lands God promised them. It is incredible and unprecedented in the world. On top of that, all those in Christ, have been grafted into that family by faith, so the number of Abraham's descendants, physically and spiritually, is immeasurable.

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- **But they never would have they believed God against** Please reload the site or [click here to refresh!](#)

APPLICATION

This wasn't a matter of simply believing more for what they wanted. No, it was the fact that they had to believe God's word and God's plan even though it didn't seem possible for them.

- This is what Jesus was talking about in context when he said, "all things are possible for those who believe."
- He wasn't suggesting that you can jump off the roof and fly, or create unicorns simply if you believe enough. No. **When it comes to fulfilling God's mission and plan, we must look past the impossible and walk as though God will do it. There will never be a shortage of God's power, provision, and possibilities for those who believe that they can be used by Him for His purposes.**

APPLICATION

Think about the totality of the characters we studied today.

Enoch didn't know when, but God was with Him. Noah didn't know what, but God prepared Him. Abraham didn't know where, but God guided Him. Sarah didn't know how but God made a way. Many others didn't know why, but God prepared them a better promise.

Whatever your who, when, where, what or why is, you have a God who is greater!

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