

So far in our study of chapter 11 in the book of Hebrews, we are trying to answer a vital question, which is: “WHAT KIND OF FAITH DOES GOD ACCEPT?”

In the first sermon on this chapter we looked at:

1. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF FAITH IN THE SUPERIORITY OF JESUS

Over the last four weeks we have looked at several examples of why faith is necessary to please God, and what that faith truly looks like.

2. DESCRIBE WHAT FAITH IN THE SUPERIORITY OF JESUS LOOKS LIKE:

IN OUR FIRST SERMON WE LOOKED AT THREE EXAMPLES WHICH WERE:

- 2.1 **ABEL HAD A SACRIFICE DEFINING FAITH**
 - 2.2.1 **ABEL'S OFFERING POINTED TO A LAMB**
 - 2.2.2 **ABEL OFFERED THE “FIRSTBORN”**
 - 2.2.3 **ABEL OFFERED “The Fat-Portions”**
 - 2.2.4 **ABEL DIED BECAUSE HE SERVED GOD**
- 2.2 **ENOCH HAD AN OBEDIENCE DEFINING FAITH**
 - 2.2.1 **JESUS LEARNED OBEDIENCE**
 - 2.2.2 **THE OBEDIENCE OF JESUS WON OUR SALVATION**
 - 2.2.3 **OBEDIENCE SHOULD CHARACTERIZE CHRISTIANS**
- 2.3 **NOAH HAD A PROPHETIC DEFINING FAITH**
 - 2.3.1 **THE ARK IS A SYMBOL OF CHRIST –**
 - 2.3.2 **THE FLOOD POINTS TO THE COMING JUDGEMENT**

IN OUR SECOND SERMON WE LOOKED AT THE EXAMPLES OF WOMEN WHO'S FAITH WAS IN THE SUPERIORITY OF JESUS

- 2.4 **SARAH HAD A MIRACLE DEFINING FAITH**
 - 2.4.1 **THE BIRTH OF ISAAC FORESHADOWS THE MIRACULOUS BIRTH OF JESUS –**
 - 2.4.2 **THE BIRTH OF ISAAC FORESHADOWS THE SACRIFICE OF JESUS**
 - 2.4.3 **BOTH SARAH AND MARY HOLD A SPECIAL PLACE IN HISTORY**
- 2.5 **JOCHEBED HAD A PROTECTING DEFINING FAITH**
 - 2.5.1 **BOTH THE PARENTS OF MOSES AND JESUS PROTECTED THEIR CHILDREN IN EGYPT –**
 - 2.5.2 **BOTH THE PARENTS OF MOSES AND JESUS RECOGNISED THEIR CHILDREN WERE UNUSUAL**
 - 2.5.3 **BOTH THE PARENTS OF MOSES AND JESUS WOULD SEE OTHER CHILDREN DIE AND THEIRS BE SAVED**
- 2.6 **RAHAB HAD A TRUST DEFINING FAITH**
 - 2.6.1 **RAHAB TRUSTED IN THE GOD OF THE ISRAELITES –**
 - 2.6.2 **RAHAB TRUSTED IN THE COVERING OF “BLOOD”**

2.7 WOMEN HAD A RESURRECTION DEFINING FAITH

Women had a pivotal role to play in the resurrection story.

2.7.1 **A WOMEN, MARY, ANNOINTED JESUS IN PREPERATION FOR HIS DEATH –**

2.7.2 **WOMEN WERE AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS WHEN JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED**

2.7.3 **WOMEN WERE AT THE TOMB WHEN JESUS WAS BURIED**

2.7.4 **WOMEN WERE THERE WHEN JESUS AROSE**

2.7.5 **A WOMEN WAS THE FIRST TO SEE THE RESURRECTED CHRIST**

IN OUR THIRD SERMON WE LOOKED AT THE FAITH OF THE FATHER OF FAITH – ABRAHAM

2.8 THE FAITH OF THE FATHER OF FAITH

2.8.1 **ABRAHAM HAD A RESPONSE OBEYING FAITH –**

2.8.2 **ABRAHAM HAD A TRUST GROWING FAITH –**

2.8.3 **ABRAHAM HAD AN INCARNATION MODELLING FAITH**

2.8.4 **ABRAHAM HAD AN ANTICIPATING FAITH –**

2.8.5 **ABRAHAM HAD A NATION CREATING FAITH –**

2.8.6 **ABRAHAM HAD AN EXPERIENCE BUILT FAITH –**

IN OUR FOURTH SERMON WE LOOKED AT THE FAITH OF THE OTHERS MENTIONED IN THE CHAPTER

2.9 THE PATRIARCHS HAD A PROMISE KEEPING FAITH –

When God first called Abraham, God made a promise to him, Jesus is the FULFILMENT of all those PROMISES.

We are the BENEFICIARIES of all those PROMISES.

2.10 MOSES HAD A SACRIFICIAL FAITH –

1. Moses SACRIFICED his POWER

2. Moses SACRIFICED his ADVANTAGES

3. Moses SACRIFICED his WEALTH

4. Moses SACRIFICED his PROTECTION

JESUS IS THE ULTIMATE EXAMPLE OF SACRIFICE

2.11 THE ISRAELITES HAD A SAVING FAITH

THE ISRAELITES WERE POINTING TO JESUS.

1. They were PROTECTED BY THE BLOOD

2. They were BAPTISED THROUGH THE WATER

3. The POWER OF THE ENEMY FELL DOWN

JESUS OFFERS SAVING FAITH.

1. **WE ARE PROTECTED BY THE BLOOD –**

2. **WE ARE BAPTISED THROUGH THE WATER –**

3. **THE POWER OF THE ENEMY FELL DOWN**

2.12 OTHERS HAD A LIVING ACTIVE FAITH –

1. **They were all just ordinary people.**

2. **They all faced opposition.**

3. **They all HAD AN EXTRAORDINARY GOD.**

TODAY WE REACH THE END OF OUR STUDY IN CHAPTER 11 OF HEBREWS. AND WE CAN FINALLY GET TO ANSWER THE QUESTION

1. **THE SIGNIFICANCE OF FAITH IN THE SUPERIORITY OF JESUS**
2. **DESCRIBE WHAT FAITH IN THE SUPERIORITY OF JESUS LOOKS LIKE:**
3. **UNDERSTAND:**

WHY FAITH IN THE SUPERIORITY OF JESUS IS COMMENDED - *Hebrews 11:1-40*

The word commended has two meanings:

1. **To praise formally or officially.** e.g.: "he was commended by the judge for his courageous actions"
2. **To be present as suitable for approval or acceptance;** recommend. e.g.: "I commend her to you without reservation"

BOTH THESE MEANINGS ARE IMPLIED:

- 3.1 **THEY WE COMMENDED FOR THEIR ASSURANCE OF BELIEF**

v1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. v2 This is what the ancients were commended for.

FAITH IS NOT A BLIND LEAP - There are those who feel that a life lived by faith is the life of a fool. They speculate that faith is nothing more than a leap into the dark. However, faith is much more than just walking around in blind, waiting for providence to bump into you. Faith is your response to the promises of God for your life. (God says, "I will lead you." Faith responds, "I will follow." God says, "I will feed you." Faith says, "I will eat." God says, "I will meet your need." Faith says. "It is done.") Faith is never a leap into the dark, it is always based upon the firmest of foundations, The Word Of God.

EVEN THE ATHEIST BELIEVES BY FAITH – To believe there is no God, takes as much faith, as those of us that believe that God EXISTS. The amount of money put into research to try to understand the origin of our universe is literally and figuratively ASTRONOMICAL. But don't forget, **WHATEVER SCIENTISTS SAY ABOUT THE BEGINNING OF LIFE IS SIMPLY A THEORY, JUST LIKE THEY SAY THE STORIES IN THE BIBLE ARE JUST A THEORY. ATHEISTS ARE SIMPLY TRYING TO GET RID OF GOD, SO THEY DON'T HAVE TO BE ACCOUNTABLE TO HIM!!!**

3.2

THEY WE COMMENDED AS BEING RIGHTEOUS

*v4 By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. **By faith he was commended as a righteous man.***

THE BIBLE HAS A LOT TO SAY ABOUT BEING RIGHTEOUS

Psalms 37:28 For the LORD loves the just and will not forsake his faithful ones. They will be protected forever, but the offspring of the wicked will be cut off;

Psalms 92:12-15 The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; v13 planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God. v14 They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, v15 proclaiming, "The LORD is upright; he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him."

Proverbs 10:7 The memory of the righteous will be a blessing, but the name of the wicked will rot.

Proverbs 10:27-30 The fear of the LORD adds length to life, but the years of the wicked are cut short. v28 The prospect of the righteous is joy, but the hopes of the wicked come to nothing. v29 The way of the LORD is a refuge for the righteous, but it is the ruin of those who do evil. v30 The righteous will never be uprooted, but the wicked will not remain in the land.

Matthew 13:43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

Galatians 3:10-11 All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law." v11 Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by faith."

WITHOUT RIGHTEOUSNESS WE WILL NOT SEE GOD

Romans 3:10-12 As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; v11 there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. v12 All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."

RIGHTEOUSNESS IS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE GOSPEL

Romans 1:17 For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

3.3

THEY WE COMMENDED AS PLEASING GOD

v5 By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God.

ENOCH PLEASED GOD.

1. Because he WALKED WITH GOD – he conducted his life in such a way that he was in tune with God
2. Because he CONFRONTED EVIL – *Jude 1:14-15 Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones v15 to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him."*

MOSES PLEASED GOD.

Because MOSES SOUGHT GOD'S GLORY – *Exodus 33:13-17* *If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favour with you. Remember that this nation is your people."* v14 *The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."* v15 *Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. v16 How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?"* v17 *And the LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name."*

DAVID PLEASED GOD.

Because his HEART BELONGED TO GOD – *1 Chronicles 29:17* *I know, my God, **that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity.** All these things have I given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you.*

JESUS PLEASED GOD.

AT HIS BAPTISM – *Matthew 3:17* *And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."*

AT HIS TRANSFIGURATION – *Matthew 17:5* *While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"*

3.4

THEY WE COMMENDED TO RECEIVE A GREATER INHERITANCE

Hebrews 11:39-40 *These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. v40 God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.*

There are many wonderful joys and benefits in being a Christian on this side of eternity.

YET NONE CAN SURPASS WHAT AWAITS US IN ETERNITY

1. **We will be in the presence of GOD.** *Revelation 21:3* *And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.*
2. **No more pain.** *Revelation 21:4* *He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."*
3. **No more decay.** *Revelation 21:4* *He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."*
4. **No more loadshedding.** *Revelation 21:23* *The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.*
5. **No more separation.** *Revelation 21:27* *Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only **those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.***

CONCLUSION

What exactly will faith do for you? After we are saved, there are certain functions which faith performs in our lives. As I look at these things, I cannot help but be encouraged.

- A. **Faith Calms Our Fears** - *Philippians 4:6-7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. v7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*
- B. **Faith Cushions Our Falls** - We are not immune from sin and temptations, but when and if we fall, we have His promise! It is possible for the Child of God to fall down, but we can never fall out – JESUS SAID IN *John 10:28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.*
- C. **Faith Confirms Our Future** - We do not know what we will face tomorrow, but we know that when all our tomorrow's are finished, We have a future secured in the Lord Jesus Christ, JESUS SAID IN *John 14:1-3 Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. v2 In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. v3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.*