

HIGHER AIM WITH DR. CURT DODD

The Resistance Of Faith

Heroes Of The Faith | Part 2 | Hebrews 11:7

INTRODUCTION

When we hear the name Noah, our minds often go to a massive ark, a world-covering flood, and a parade of animals, two by two. These are the familiar details of a story we've known since childhood. But when the writer of Hebrews looks back at Noah's life, he highlights something different. He applauds Noah's faith. Specifically, he commends him for a life of faith that stood in stark resistance to the world around him.

We live in a time where pressure mounts to go with the flow, to not ruffle feathers, and to quietly conform to cultural norms. The call to simply love and accept is often twisted into an excuse for silent compromise. But the life of Noah offers a powerful counter-narrative. God is calling His people not to float along like a dead log in a stream, but to walk with Him so faithfully that our very lives resist and condemn the world's brokenness. This guide explores what it means to build a life of faith resistance, anchored not in our own strength, but in a deep, personal walk with God.

KEY POINTS

1. Faith's Resistance Radiates From A Walk With God

Before Noah built an ark, he built a relationship. The Bible's description of him is simple yet profound: "Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God." In a world described as corrupt and full of violence, Noah's attention, focus, and friendship were directed toward God. His ability to stand against an entire culture was not born from stubbornness but from spiritual intimacy. He woke up each morning and oriented his life around God's presence. Our ability to resist the world's values will always radiate from the quality of our personal walk with God. It is out of that daily fellowship that we receive our strength, our perspective, and our walking orders.

2. Faith's Resistance Is A Personal Choice To Listen

God did not force Noah to walk with Him. It was a personal choice, made day after day. In the same way, God invites us into a relationship, but He will not send a bill or an email reminder to connect with Him. We must choose. The writer of Hebrews warns believers, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts" (*Hebrews 3:15*). In a world that offers countless distractions and competing voices, we must intentionally decide to listen for the voice of God. This requires us to see to it that we do not develop a "sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God" (*Hebrews 3:12*). Noah was in the minority, but because his fulfillment came from God, he was okay with being by himself. Your walk with God cannot depend on a church, a pastor, or other people. It must be a personal, daily choice to listen to His voice above all others.

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3. Faith's Resistance Is Revealed In Complete Obedience

A listening ear must lead to obedient steps. After God gave Noah the specific, demanding, and unprecedented instructions to build an ark, the Bible gives this summary: "Noah did everything just as God commanded him" (*Genesis 6:22*). This was not partial or convenient obedience. It was complete trust in action. Faith isn't just hearing God's Word; it is doing what it says (*James 1:22*). Through this obedience, God rewards His children with revelation, letting them in on His plans for the future. For Noah, it was a coming judgment. For us, it is the promised return of Christ. Furthermore, this radical obedience becomes our participation in God's redemptive plan. Noah's faithfulness saved his family. Our willingness to obey, even when we don't fully understand, becomes a testimony to the world and a vehicle for God's grace to our loved ones.

In the middle of a busy life, it is easy to become a passenger, carried along by the currents of culture. We are told not to judge, to just love people, and to keep the peace. While these ideas contain fragments of truth, they are often used to silence Christian conviction. The story of Noah challenges us to ask a difficult question: Is my life marked by comfortable conformity or courageous faithfulness?

Noah's life was an act of worshipful resistance. He resisted the violence and corruption of his day not by starting a movement, but by walking with God. He resisted the logic of his world, which had never seen rain, by obeying God's Word. He resisted the loneliness of being an outcast by finding his fulfillment in God's presence. This is the endurance God calls us to. It is the steady, quiet, long obedience that models a deeper trust in Christ.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Our ability to resist the world radiates from our walk with God. In what practical, daily ways can you cultivate a closer walk with God so that His voice becomes louder than the world's?
2. Noah made a personal choice to obey God when he was in the minority. In what areas of your life do you feel pressure to conform to culture rather than stand for Christ? What is one step of obedience you can take this week to walk more faithfully with Him?
3. Dr. Dodd shared a story about being willing to obey God, even when it was difficult. How does the idea of "willingness" challenge you? What is one area of your life you need to take your hands off of and surrender to God's plan?
