

THE POWER OF FAITH

Hebrews 11:1-6)

FAITH IS NOT BASED ON EMOTION OR INTELLECT

- *“Now faith is the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen. 2 For by this our ancestors were approved. 3 By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.” (Hebrews 11:1-3)*
- **Our faith should be rooted in the Creator of all things because His word is true throughout all time.**

ATONEMENT FOR SINS IS MADE THROUGH THE SHEDDING OF BLOOD

- *“By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was approved as a righteous man, because God approved his gifts, and even though he is dead, he still speaks through his faith.” (Hebrews 11:4)*
- **Like Abel’s blood sacrifice of the first lamb, Jesus became the final sacrifice to offer atonement to all who would call on His name in faith.**
- *“But this man, after offering one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God.” (Hebrews 10:12)*
- *“For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God’s gift— 9 not from works, so that no one can boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)*

PLEASING GOD INVOLVES WALKING WITH HIM IN FAITH

- *“By faith Enoch was taken away, and so he did not experience death. He was not to be found because God took him away. For before he was taken away, he was approved as one who pleased God. 6 Now without faith it is impossible to please God, since the one who draws near to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him.” (Hebrews 11:5-6)*
- *“Enoch was 65 years old when he fathered Methuselah. 22 And after he fathered Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and fathered other sons and daughters. 23 So Enoch’s life lasted 365 years. 24 Enoch walked with God; then he was not there because God took him.” (Genesis 5:21-23)*
- **Walking with God is possible through the empowering of the Holy Spirit and the exercising of our faith.**
- *“I say, then, walk by the Spirit and you will certainly not carry out the desire of the flesh.” (Galatians 5:6)*

- *“Let us walk with decency, as in the daytime: not in carousing and drunkenness; not in sexual impurity and promiscuity; not in quarreling and jealousy.” (Romans 13:13)*
- *“For we walk by faith, not by sight.” (2 Corinthians 5:7)*
- *“I have no greater joy than this: to hear that my children are walking in truth.” (3 John 4)*
- *“So then, just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to walk in Him.” (Colossians 2:6)*
- *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” (2 Timothy 4:7)*
- **Our faith should be settled in what we believe about who God is, what He has done for us, and what He promised He will yet do.**
- *“Now without faith it is impossible to please God, since the one who draws near to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him.” (Hebrews 11:6)*

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION

Observation

- According to Hebrews 11:1, how is faith defined?
- What do verses 2–3 say about the faith of our ancestors and the creation of the world?
- What specific acts of faith are mentioned for Abel and Enoch in verses 4–5?
- Why is faith essential for pleasing God, as stated in verse 6?

Understanding

- In what ways do people often rely more on feelings or reasoning than faith when making spiritual decisions?
- How can you grow in rooting your faith in the truth of God’s Word rather than your experiences or emotions?
- What is one area of your life where you need to trust God more, even though you can’t see the outcome?
- Why do you think Abel’s sacrifice was accepted by God, and Cain’s was not? What does this teach us about true worship?
- How does Abel’s example point us to the greater sacrifice of Jesus?
- What does it practically look like to “walk with God” as Enoch did?
- Pray for each other to walk faithfully with God this week and beyond.

Loving Outward:

- Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
- Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
- Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?