

**SERIES: STORIES OF FAITH
SERMON: FAITH LIKE NOAH
4-14-24**

OPENER:

In this series, “Stories of Faith”, we are going to be looking together at what it means to live by faith. God teaches us in *Hebrews 11* through a series of examples. Each one highlights an aspect of the faith to which we are all called.

Hebrews 11:1-40 (NKJV) Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. ² For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.

³ By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

⁴ By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

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.

>We see from the story of Abel that faith listens to God.

>We see from the faith of Enoch that faith pleases God.

> Today we will see from the story of Noah that faith fears God.

TITLE OF MY MESSAGE TODAY: “FAITH LIKE NOAH”

I. WHO WAS NOAH?

1. HE WAS A MAN WHO WALKED WITH GOD

Genesis 6:9 (NKJV) Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.

Only two people in the Bible are mentioned to have walked with God... Enoch and Noah.

Genesis 5:24 (NKJV) And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

The phrase “*walked with God*” as used here means “to conduct oneself in a particular manner” or to “pursue a particular course of life”. Those who are said to have walked with God lived in such a way as if God really was walking by their

side – they lived openly and transparently before God, trying to please him with how lived.

2. HE WAS A MAN WHO WAS RIGHTEOUS BEFORE GOD

Vs.. 8.....By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.

**THERE IS A RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT COMES WITH
HAVING FAITH.
IF YOU WANT TO BE RIGHTEOUS BEFORE GOD, YOU FIRST
MUST HAVE FAITH.**

Romans 3:22 NIV This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.

Noah refused to conform to the evil practices and thinking of his day. Noah wasn't swayed by peer pressure or cultural norms – he stayed true to what he knew was right in God's eyes. In a time when no one else cared about righteousness, Noah remained committed to living uprightly. His life was anchored in his devotion to God.

3. HE HAD GOD'S FAVOR ON HIM

Genesis 6:8 (NKJV) But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

The best definition of the word *favor* is “demonstrated delight.” The favor of God can be described as “tangible evidence that a person has the approval of the Lord.”

II. WHAT KIND OF FAITH DID NOAH HAVE?

1. FAITH THAT PRODUCED GODLY FEAR

Vs. 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 faith Noah... moved with godly fear.....”

God “warned” Noah “concerning events not yet seen.” The Lord told him that the world that he knew would be destroyed in a great flood. Noah believed the warning, and he feared. This verse seems to be saying that faith can lead to fear. By faith he feared!

Now someone may say....Wait, isn't the whole point of faith that we have peace and joy in believing? Yes, That's true. But there's more.

**THERE IS A FEAR THAT FAITH RELIEVES AND THERE IS A
FEAR THAT FAITH BRINGS.**

GOD HAS GIVEN US WARNINGS AS WELL AS PROMISES AND THE FAITH THAT REJOICES WHEN IT HEARS GOD'S PROMISES, ALSO TREMBLES WHEN IT HEARS GOD'S WARNINGS.

Isaiah 66: 2(NKJV) For all those things My hand has made,And all those things exist,"Says the Lord."But on this one will I look; on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles (fear in Hebrew) at My word.

Some define the fear of God meaning to "respect" Him. While respect is definitely included in the concept of fearing God, there is more to it than that. A biblical fear of God, includes understanding how much God hates sin and fearing His judgment on sin. The Bible describes God's discipline in our lives as believers. While it is done in love it is still a fearful thing.

Hebrews 12:9-10....we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.

ILLUSTRATION:

When we were children, our fear of discipline from our parents prevented some evil actions on our part. The same should be true in our relationship with God. We should fear His discipline, and seek to live our lives in a way that pleases Him.

We are not to be scared of God. We have no reason to be scared of Him. We have His promise that nothing can separate us from His love (*Romans 8:38-39*). We have His promise that He will never leave us or forsake us (*Hebrews 13:5*). Fearing God means having a reverence for Him that greatly impacts the way we live. The fear of God is respecting Him, obeying Him, submitting to His discipline, and worshiping Him in awe.

Psalm 112:1Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, Who delights greatly in His commandments.....vs 8....His heart is established; He will not be afraid,

**GODLY FEAR WILL DELIVER YOU FROM OTHER FEARS.
YOUR HEART WILL BE STEADY, GODLY FEAR WILL
PUT STRENGTH IN YOU.**

2. FAITH THAT BELIEVED ALL THAT GOD SAID

Vs. 7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen,

**FAITH TRUSTS IN GOD'S PROMISES AND IT BELIEVES
GOD'S WARNINGS.**

Sometimes we want to believe the promises and ignore the warnings. We want to believe that God will pardon sin but not punish it. We want to believe in heaven, but not so much in hell.

C.H. Spurgeon said, *“Faith in God must treat all God’s Word alike; for the faith which accepts one word of God, and rejects another, is evidently not faith in God, but faith in our own judgement, faith in our own taste.”*

**FAITH DOES NOT PICK AND CHOOSE WHAT IT
LIKES IN THE BIBLE.**

**FAITH BELIEVES ALL THAT GOD HAS REVEALED - THE WARNING AND THE
PROMISES BECAUSE WE NEED BOTH.**

**WHEN GOD WARNS, FAITH BELIEVE HIM AND FEARS.
WHEN GOD PROMISES FAITH TRUSTS HIM AND RESTS.**

Romans 11:22 (NKJV) Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness.

God is good to those who seek Him. And terrifying to those who defy him. We are not to dwell on God’s kindness alone. We are not to dwell on God’s severity alone. We are to dwell on the kindness and severity of God together. Both have their place in forming a faithful Christian life. And when some part of the truth gets lost, some part of our life gets distorted. Without it you would be in great danger.

**JUST LIKE NOAH, WE MUST HAVE FAITH THAT BELIEVES ALL THAT GOD SAYS
EVEN THOUGH WE CANNOT SEE IT.**

3. FAITH THAT PROMPTED HIM TO ACT

Vs. 7Noah.....prepared an ark

Against all odds, he obeyed God. He was considered crazy, laughed at, mocked and persecuted. But His faith caused him to obey what God had asked him to do in spite of the condemnation he received.

4. FAITH THAT SAVED HIS FAMILY

VS. 7 Noah...prepared an ark for the saving of his household.

The people who were saved were all related to Noah. His wife, three sons, and three daughters in law. God saved the family for Noah’s sake. They were saved because of who he was – a righteous man, and what He did in building an ark.

WHAT ARE YOU BUILDING IN YOUR LIFE TO SAVE YOUR FAMILY?

> Are you building a life upon Jesus?

**> Are you constructing a consistent faithful surrendered
relationship to Him?**

> Do you display a life that goes to Christ for help and safety?

III. WE NEED FAITH LIKE NOAH IN THESE TIMES

Matthew 24:37-44 (NKJV) ³⁷ But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ⁴⁰ Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. ⁴² Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect

The judgment of the Flood caught people unaware, just as the return of the Lord will happen when people least expect it. Like people today, the people of Noah's day were busy enjoying life and did not believe or care that judgment was coming.

2 Peter 3:3-4 (NKJV).....knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, ⁴ and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming.....Vs 8-9 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

**WE NEED A FAITH LIKE NOAH IN THESE DAYS.
FAITH THAT IS UNPOPULAR
FAITH THAT SEEMS CRAZY TO THE WORLD.
FAITH THAT GOES AGAINST THE CULTURAL NORM.**

1. WE NEED A FAITH THAT PURSUADES US TO WALK WITH GOD

Before the great test came, before he heard the warning from God in the secret place, Noah believed in God. It is a great thing to have faith in the presence of a terrible trial, but to have great faith in the trial we must have ordinary faith from day to day.

- >Do you Have faith in God's daily provision?
- >Do you have faith in God for your children and your house?
- >Do you have faith in God for your business?
- >Do you have faith in the God that he will answer your prayer?
- > Is it a habit with you to roll your burdens upon the Lord?

If it is not what will you do when the floods come? Faith will not come to you all of a sudden, in the dark night, if you have shut it out through all the bright days. Faith must be a constant, not an occasional quest.

**WE NEED FAITH TODAY.
WE NEED FAITH TOMORROW - THE NEXT DAY AND FAITH AT THE
END OF THE WEEK!
LORD TEACH US TO HAVE FAITH EVERY DAY!
TEACH US TO WALK IN FAITH - TO LIVE BY FAITH.
TO WALK WITH YOU GOD EVERY MOMENT.**

JUST AS NOAH WAS CALLED A “PREACHER OF RIGHTEOUSNESS”

2. WE NEED A FAITH THAT SPEAKS OUT AND WARNS OTHERS OF THE TRUTH

3. WE NEED A FAITH THAT BELIEVES THE IMPOSSIBLE

Noah believed what seemed absolutely impossible. There was no sea but, he was to build a sea-going vessel. Never having seen rain He believed that the rains would come.

**THE FAITH WHICH BELIEVES IN THE PROBABLE
IS ANYBODY’S FAITH.
BUT THE FAITH THAT BELIEVES THAT BELIEVES THE IMPOSSIBLE
IS FAITH THAT SAVES.**

4. WE NEED A FAITH THAT BELIEVES ALONE

Noah believed alone, and preached on though none followed him. There were no other believers, except his wife and his sons and daughters. There were only eight in all who were saved.

Matthew 7:13-14 Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. ¹⁴ Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

5. WE NEED A FAITH THAT PERSEVERES

Noah believed through a hundred and twenty years!

- > One hundred and twenty years preaching, and no converts remaining!
- > One hundred and twenty years building a ship, and yet no water to float it!
- > One hundred and twenty years warning people that God is about to destroy them, and yet no flood!
- > One hundred and twenty years of looking like a failure.

6. WE NEED A FAITH THAT SETS US APART FROM THE WORLD

2 Corinthians 6:17 (NKJV) Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord.

**THAT SEPARATENESS WHICH NOAH TOOK UPON HIMSELF SO WILLINGLY, WAS
WHAT SAVED HIM.**

**FOR IF HE HAD LIVED WITH THE WORLD HE WOULD HAVE DIED WITH THE
WORLD.**

ONLY IN SEPARATION IS THERE SALVATION.

When the floods began to rise, and the door was shut, how the sight of the ark condemned them! I can imagine, when the water began to get knee-deep, there would be frightened ones around the ark door, but it could not be opened since God had shut it. When the ark began to float, some of them fled to the sides of the mountains, and what a condemnation the sight of the floating ark was to them! Noah could not help them then. The day in which they might have entered was gone by.

7. WE NEED A FAITH THAT CAUSES US TO DIE TO THE WORLD

Noah obeyed and was delivered from death by death. The ark was, so to speak, a coffin to him, he entered it, and became a dead man to the old world, and within its he was floated into a new world, to become the founder and father of a new race.

Just like in water baptism we see new life by burial into new life, so was it with Noah and his family, he passed by burial in the ark into a new life.

When Noah went in the Lord shut the door, and he and his family were dead to the world. When the Lord shuts you off from the world, it's better to be alone. Nowadays we don't have enough faith to be alone. If we had built the ark we would want to build a door at the back so we could slip out every once in a while and then come back in, We don't want to fully forsake the world. How few can endure being shut in with God.