

Heb 11:5-6

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.

**Enoch pleased God!**

Enoch lived by faith.

Luke 16:10

10 He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.

**David carefully cared for his sheep before becoming king.**

**Joseph was faithful as a servant and as a prisoner**

- prior to being placed over the affairs of Egypt.

**Moses tended sheep** for 40 years before leading Israel.

**Perhaps someone at work has maligned you or a family member or a friend**

- or they've gossiped about you.

**Everything within you wants to retaliate,**

- but you know the words of Jesus,
- you know that Jesus would forgive them.

**So instead of retaliating, you treat them with kindness.**

That's putting faith into action.

**Enoch practiced his faith by believing in God,**

- trusting in God's promises
- and seeking God in his daily activities.

**Verse 6,** "he who comes to God must believe that He is,"

**Before a person comes to God, he must first believe there is a God.**

**He will believe what the scriptures say about God. He is God, He is the creator,**

Ps 90:1-2

1 Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.

2 Before the mountains were brought forth,

Or ever You had formed the earth and the world,  
Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

God is Spirit therefore we must worship Him in Spirit and in truth.

**God is Holy, Isa 6:3, He is completely separate from sin.**

- 1 John 4:8 says God is love, that's His nature.
- Deut 32:4 says He is righteous.

**He has all authority and reveals Himself fully in Jesus, Heb 1:3.**

Heb 1:3

3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Ex 3:13-14

13 Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?"

14 And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM."

In ancient times a name often revealed the nature or character of a person.

**Moses was asking, "who are you?"**

- God's response, "I AM WHO I AM"

**Jesus said in John 8:58, "Before Abraham was, I AM"**

**When Jesus asked the question,** who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?

**The response returned,** John the Baptist, Elija, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.

**Then Jesus made it personal,** "But who do you say that I am?"

Heb 11:6

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.

Seeking Him isn't merely searching intellectually for God.

**Human intellect can recognize certain truths about God.**

- But a true knowledge of God
- comes thru revelation and faith.

**For example: Paul said**

Rom 1:19-20 the attributes of God are clearly seen thru the things which have been made.

1 Cor 1:21

21 Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe.

It's by God revealing Himself to us that gives us a knowledge of Him.

**Jesus said:**

Matt 11:27-30

27 All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.

**I don't want to stop at this verse because I don't want anyone to feel as though**

- He may or may not want to reveal Himself to you.

Matt 11:28-30

28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

**Heb 11:6,**

- it's by faith by which God is known.

God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

**Enoch was certainly rewarded in that he never tasted death.**

**The greatest reward we as believers receive is eternal life.**

**James 4:8,** draw near to Him and He will draw near to you.

**Matt 16:27,** Jesus will reward each according to his works.

**Paul recognized that we cannot overcome sin through personal effort.**

**Therefore, he says in verse 6 that** it is impossible to please God without faith.

Heb 11:7

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.

**Thus far we've talked about faith worshipping by example in Abel,**

- Enoch represents faith walking with God
- and now we'll read of Noah who represents faith working.

Noah moved with godly fear. He trusted God.

We know he trusted God because the verse opens by telling us

- he was a man of faith.

He was also warned. The warning wasn't only a warning of danger,

- but it carried the idea
- of what to do in light of the danger.

God was warning Noah of coming judgment.

- And the coming judgement
- was coming in the form of a flood.

Noah trusted God in His word,

In Genesis chapters 6-9 we see why God caused the flood,

- because men were wicked.

2 Peter 2:5

5 and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;

Many saw Noah's word and most likely questioned him but did not respond favorably towards him.

Noah took God at His word. That would have required a lot of faith.

Satan likes to attack God's word.

Attacking God's word started in the garden by Satan asking Eve,

- "Has God indeed said,"

As Israel approached the land of Canaan Balak was the king of Moab, and he feared Israel because of their size and because of their recent victories.

Balak sought help from a non-Israelite diviner named Balaam asking him to curse Israel.

Each time Balaam pronounced a curse on Israel, God blessed Israel.

Balaam went to Balak with a message from the Lord:

Num 23:19

19 God is not a man, so he does not lie.  
 He is not human, so he does not change his mind.  
 Has he ever spoken and failed to act?  
 Has he ever promised and not carried it through?

**God does not fluctuate like human beings. He is faithful to His promises,**

**Noah took God at His word.**

**Noah moved with godly fear (a reverent fear), and prepared an ark**

- for the saving of his household.

**Hebrews 10:31** - it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

**That passage speaks of those who “sin willfully” after knowing the truth (vs 26)**

- They treat the sacrifice of Christ as unholy (vs 29)
- And insult the Spirit of grace (vs 30).

**Noah was a man of faith.**

- He believed God in his mind,
- he revered God with his heart
- and surrendered his will to God in obedience.

How was he obedient? He prepared an ark.

**The greatest testimony you can have is to live out your faith in Christ.**

**Verse 7** - Noah condemned the world.

**To condemn as used in this instance**

- is to show by one’s good conduct
- that others are guilty of misconduct
- and deserve condemnation.

**Noah’s actions created a clear contrast.**

- He believed God’s warning of a coming flood whereas,
- the rest of humanity did not believe. Gen 6:5-7

**Notice what Jesus said about truth and righteousness, light and darkness.**

John 3:19-20

19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

**Peter said regarding the last days:**

2 Peter 3:1-15

1 Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), 2 that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, 3 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? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." 5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6 by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. 7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

8 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.

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;

**Verse 7 - Noah became an heir of righteousness**

- which is according to faith.

**The righteousness was something he received,**

- not something he achieved.

**It wasn't based on his works in building the ark,**

- but it was according to his faith
- as stated in verse 7.

Heb 11:8

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.

**When it comes to the subject of justification by faith,**

- it's always Abraham's name that comes up.

**We'll focus on a few key words,**

- called, obeyed, sojourned and looked.

**The first thing we notice about Abraham, Abram, is that**

- he obeyed when he was called
- to go to a strange land.

**God called Abram** at the young age of 75.

**God told him,** go out and count the stars if you are able to number them.

**Then He said,** "So shall your descendants be."

**Abraham took God at His word.**

**When Mary was told she was going to have a child she asked,** "How can this be since I do not know a man?"

**She was simply asking for clarification.**

Luke 1:38

38 Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word."

She yielded to the will of God by faith.

**Abram was called to leave his homeland,**

- Ur of the Chaldeans which is in
- the southern part of modern day Iraq,
- somewhere near or in An Nasiriyah.

**Because of the limitations of natural resources,**

- trading was essential for the community.

They also had a lot of religion in the area.

**The region of Mesopotamia was polytheistic,**

- they worshipped many gods.

However, each city had a patron deity.

- They had a god or goddess whom they believed
- to protect them and support them.

The deities were believed to reside in the city's temple or ziggurat.

A ziggurat looked like a tiered pyramid with multiple levels.

The ziggurat functioned as a sacred platform

- elevating the temple closer to the heavens.

By doing so, it was thought to bring nearness to the divine.

The city where Abraham lived in Ur was devoted to the moon god Nanna (sin).

This is what Abram was called out of. Abram, leave this sinful area.

Jesus said:

Matt 11:28-30

28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

When Jesus calls us to Himself, He's not calling us to a system

- or to one of many ways to salvation.

No, He is the way. He's saying, don't waste your time searching, I am the way.

He says, I'm the one that brings you rest, rest to your soul.

So Abram was called, he obeyed and verse 8 says he went out, not knowing where he was going.