



Cloud of Witnesses - Hebrews 11:1-4 - Abel.

ADAM LONG

Week of July 7th, 2019

MAIN POINT // By faith Abel lived in expectation of the coming Messiah; Jesus. In the same way we are, by faith, to live in remembrance of the work of Jesus; who is our Messiah.

MAIN TEXTS // Hebrews 11:1-4 & Genesis 4:1-10 English Standard Version

1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. **2** For by it the people of old received their commendation. **3** By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. **4** By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commanding him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. **Hebrews 11:1-4**

1 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD." **2** And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. **3** In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, **4** and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, **5** but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. **6** The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? **7** If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it."

8 Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. **9** Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" **10** And the LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground." **Genesis 4:1-10**

SERMON POINTS // Faith is a confidence in things hoped for, a conviction of things unseen, and is commendation before a Holy God. To be clear, this is not necessarily a **definition** of faith but rather a **description** of what faith does.

Abel placed his faith in the Lord and was afforded these three progressive things:

- + By faith Abel obtained **approval**.
- + By faith Abel obtained **righteousness**.
- + By faith Abel obtained a **legacy**.

By faith, Abel lived a life that was **approved** by God, was considered **righteous** in His sight, and his lived a **legacy** of God's work long after he was gone. Since Jesus defended sin and death on the cross believers today can also live by faith confidently knowing we have already been **approved** in Jesus, that His **righteousness** is ours, and that the **legacy** we have been called to live points back to the Savior who gave us all we have!



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GOSPEL COMMUNITY

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Question 1

What was something you wrote down or a truth that resonated with you from listening to the sermon, looking at the overview, or even in just reading the text in Hebrews 11?

Question 2

The Letter to the Hebrews was written to a group of believers who were considering going back to the old ways of doing things (The Law) rather than running the race of faith in Jesus with endurance. He spends the entire letter reminding the readers that Jesus is far greater than anything that has ever been, anything that will ever be, and anything they could ever imagine. We will consistently need to be reminded of this truth. **What areas of your own life do you see overshadowing Jesus at times? What areas do you need the reminder of Jesus' superiority over those very things?** Briefly share some honest thoughts with the group. These things could be attitudes, material things, or job related.

Question 3

The writer of Hebrews begins to unfold the idea that people of the Old Testament lived by faith in a way that points toward the coming Messiah – similarly to how the readers should be pointing backward to the work of Jesus. By faith Abel was **approved** by God, was considered **righteous** in His sight, and lived a **legacy** of God's work even in his death. **Which of these areas do you see as a pressure point in your life? What evidences in your life brings you to that conclusion?** Spend some time openly sharing with the group but also taking time to encourage one another with truth from Scripture.

Question 4

Abel was a picture of Jesus long before He ever stepped onto this earth. And Jesus is a better picture of Abel long after he stepped foot into Heaven. Not only is Jesus superior to examples like Abel – but He is superior to all things: past, present, and future. This is the Jesus the writer to the Hebrews challenges us all to live for by faith! **How will you allow this challenge to effect your walk with Christ this week?** Be specific and be practical. Remember there is grace where there is faith – we are not required to live perfectly. We are called upon to live obediently by faith in grace.