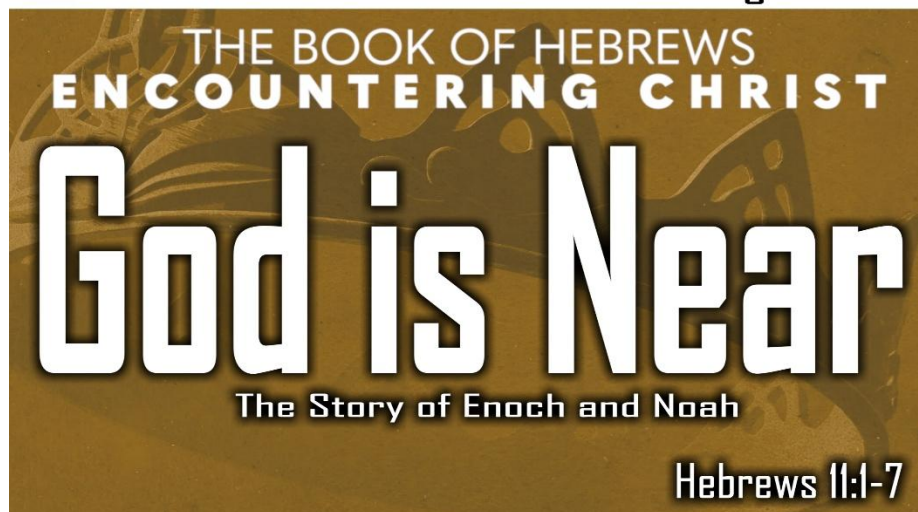




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ALL SCRIPTURES ARE PRINTED VERBATIM WITH TRANSLATIONS NOTED • CHAIR BIBLE PAGE # 175 (NT SECTION)

IN SOME PLACES, GOD'S WORD IS UNDERLINED WITH DOTS WITH PASTOR JOE'S COMMENTARY IN THE BRACKETED, LIGHTER FACED TEXT.

Biblical faith is expectant reliance on God alone that is accompanied by immediate obedience.

A. Today's Text

1. Without faith, you cannot understand the universe.

Hebrews 11:3, NASB95 - ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

2. Without faith, you cannot be accepted by God.

Hebrews 11:4, NASB95 - ⁴ By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.

Hebrews 11:4, NLT - ⁴ It was by faith that Abel brought a more acceptable offering to God than Cain did. Abel's offering gave evidence that he was a righteous man, and God showed his approval of his gifts. Although Abel is long dead, he still speaks to us by his example of faith.

3. Without faith, you cannot please God.

Hebrews 11:5, NASB95 - ⁵ By faith Enoch was taken up [also translated as *raptured* or *translated*] so that he would not see death; AND HE WAS NOT FOUND, BECAUSE GOD TOOK HIM UP. [his very brief story is told in Genesis 5:21-24]; for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God. ⁶ And 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 seek Him.

"Death is a *trivial episode* to the believer. It is the doorway through which we enter the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ." - Dr. John Stott

"I am a spiritual being...after this body is dead, my spirit will soar. I refuse to let what will rot rule the eternal." - Dr. Max Lucado

"All death can do to the believer is deliver him/her to Jesus." - Charlie Kirk

4. Without faith, you cannot stand against the world.

Hebrews 11:7, NASB95 - ⁷ By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

Those who believe the church will go through the Tribulation—the period of time when God pours out His wrath on a Christ-rejecting world—use Noah as their proof. "Although judgment fell with the rain," they say, "Noah and his family were protected in the ark—just as the church will be protected in the Tribulation." [†]

Not so. Noah is a picture of the Jewish people going through the Tribulation, for truly, they will go through it and be saved in it. (Revelation 7) The church, on the other hand, is pictured by Enoch, who, a few verses before the story of Noah, was "translated"—or raptured—before the rain came down, before judgment took place.

- Dr. John Piper

5. With faith, you *can* be near to God.

James 4:8, NLT - ⁸ [Draw near] to God, and God will [draw near] to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.

Psalms 145:18, NASB95 - The Lord is near to all who call on Him.

[†] Source: 3 Nephi 12-21, DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS, one of four documents the LDS church considers holy.