

The Work of the Spirit

Part 2

“Faith in Action”

Hebrews 11

1 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. **2** This is what the ancients were commended for.

3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

4 By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did....

5 By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death: “He could not be found, because God had taken him away.” For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God.

6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

7 By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family....

8 By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.

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17 By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, **18** even though God had said to him, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.”

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20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future.

21 By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph's sons, and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff.

22 By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions concerning the burial of his bones.

23 By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. **25** He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.

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29 By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.

30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days.

31 By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.

32 And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, **33** who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, **34** quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. **35** Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. **36** Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. **37** They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins

and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— **38** the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

39 These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised,

- There is a work of faith in the heart of every believer that comes by the work of the Holy Spirit...
- For each of these their faith was connected to action. For some there faith brought risk, for some it was sacrificial, for others it was what pushed them out of a comfortable place...

Vs. 1

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

- Faith in God and His calling on our lives is an amazing gift that separates followers of Jesus from the world; to follow God and operate in faith should bring every believer pure joy...
- Just as our physical eyesight is the sense that gives us evidence of the material world, **faith** is the “sense” that gives us confidence in the invisible, spiritual world.
- Physical eyesight produces a confidence or evidence of visible things; faith like that has the ability to see with confidence the things we hope for in Christ, it is an assurance about what is around the corner, those things to come.
- That faith though it seems small at first, almost like a nudge of the Lord, has potential for great effect. Who would have thought that when Billy Graham heard the Gospel and a small spark of faith began to burn, that it would grow to impact the world for Jesus...

Like that the Hebrew writer says:

- By faith Abel brought God a better offering...
- Enoch was taken from this life...
- Noah built an ark and saved his family...
- Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed...
- Jacob blessed each of Joseph's sons...
- Joseph spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt...
- Moses refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter...
- By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land, the walls of Jericho fell and Rahab was spared...

Romans 14:23b

and everything that does not come from faith is sin.

The context to the passage is saying this; whatever you do, let it be in good conscience and faith towards God.

Whatever we do in life and for God ought to come from a place of Faith...

Colossians 3:23,24

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward.

- This doesn't start with the big things, this starts with the small things...
- God is a heart reader...

Story: Helping my youth pastor stack bricks for a hell house...

- I've had a story from the Bible in my spirit all week...
- It's the story of Solomon building the temple and what God does in response to Solomon's obedience...

- The story starts in 1 Chronicles 28

1 Chronicles 28

1 David summoned all the officials of Israel to assemble at Jerusalem: the officers over the tribes, the commanders of the divisions in the service of the king, the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, and the officials in charge of all the property and livestock belonging to the king and his sons, together with the palace officials, the warriors and all the brave fighting men.

2 King David rose to his feet and said: “Listen to me, my fellow Israelites, my people. I had it in my heart to build a house as a place of rest for the ark of the covenant of the Lord, for the footstool of our God, and I made plans to build it. **3** But God said to me, ‘You are not to build a house for my Name, because you are a warrior and have shed blood.’

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6 He said to me: ‘Solomon your son is the one who will build my house and my courts, for I have chosen him to be my son, and I will be his father.’

2 Chronicles 2

1 Solomon gave orders to build a temple for the Name of the Lord and a royal palace for himself. **2** He conscripted 70,000 men as carriers and 80,000 as stonecutters in the hills and 3,600 as foremen over them.

2 Chronicles 3

Then Solomon began to build the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the Lord had appeared to his father David. It was on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite, the place provided by David. **2** He began building on the second day of the second month in the fourth year of his reign.

3 The foundation Solomon laid for building the temple of God was sixty cubits long (90ft) and twenty cubits wide (30ft) (using the cubit of the old standard). **4** The portico at the front of the temple was twenty cubits long (30ft) across the width of the building and twenty cubits high (30ft).

He overlaid the inside with pure gold. **5** He paneled the main hall with juniper and covered it with fine gold and decorated it with palm tree and chain designs. **6** He adorned the temple with precious stones. And the gold he used was gold of Parvaim. **7** He overlaid the ceiling beams, doorframes, walls and doors of the temple with gold, and he carved cherubim on the walls.

8 He built the Most Holy Place, its length corresponding to the width of the temple—twenty cubits long and twenty cubits wide. He overlaid the inside with six hundred talents of fine gold. **9** The gold nails weighed fifty shekels. He also overlaid the upper parts with gold.

- 1 Kings records the same account of Solomon building the temple, but it gives an extra detail.

1 Kings 6:7 In building the temple, only blocks dressed at the quarry were used, and no hammer, chisel or any other iron tool was heard at the temple site while it was being built.

- This temple took 7 years and 6 months from start to finish...
- That means for 7 years and 6 months it was dusty, grimy, hard work...
- 153,600 people working hard for 7 1/2 years...
- It doesn't always feel spiritual, it didn't always feel prestigious, but don't ever separate faith from hard work, they go hand in hand...

Let me ask you, what did it take to build this temple?

- 1. Intelligence**
- 2. Talent**
- 3. Hard work**

4. God given strength and ability

The answer is: Yes all of that

The same is true with us, to accomplish what God has for our lives it's going to take your faith, together with every bit of effort we have...

I love the saying, "Pray as if it depends upon God, Work as if it depends upon you."

2 Chronicles 5

When all the work Solomon had done for the temple of the Lord was finished, he brought in the things his father David had dedicated—the silver and gold and all the furnishings—and he placed them in the treasuries of God's temple.

The Ark Brought to the Temple

2 Then Solomon summoned to Jerusalem the elders of Israel, all the heads of the tribes and the chiefs of the Israelite families, to bring up the ark of the Lord's covenant from Zion, the City of David. **3** And all the Israelites came together to the king at the time of the festival in the seventh month.

4 When all the elders of Israel had arrived, the Levites took up the ark, **5** and they brought up the ark and the tent of meeting and all the sacred furnishings in it. The Levitical priests carried them up; **6** and King Solomon and the entire assembly of Israel that had gathered about him were before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and cattle that they could not be recorded or counted.

7 The priests then brought the ark of the Lord's covenant to its place in the inner sanctuary of the temple, the Most Holy Place, and put it beneath the wings of the cherubim.

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12 All the Levites who were musicians... stood on the east side of the altar, dressed in fine linen and playing cymbals, harps and lyres. They were accompanied by 120 priests sounding trumpets. **13** The trumpeters and musicians joined in unison to give praise and thanks to the Lord. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, the singers raised their voices in praise to the Lord and sang:

“He is good;
his love endures forever.”

Then the temple of the Lord was filled with the cloud,

14 and the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the temple of God.

- After 7 years and 6 months Solomon and all his workers brought something to the Lord through faith and hard work...
- Then God filled that Temple with His presence...

- Often times our work for God can feel a lot like that, work...
- But something happens when our Faith takes action...
- Is it possible for faith to become stagnant and even weak when it's not put into action...

James 2

14 What *does it* profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works?

17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.