



SUNDAY MORNING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: What Faith Is and What Faith Does

Passage: Hebrews 11:1-7

Speaker: Pastor Dan Preston

Introduction: Faith is a part of every person's life. Every day, people place their trust in something or someone, whether in the physical world or in matters of eternity. The issue is not whether a person has faith, but where that faith is placed. The Bible makes it clear that faith is only as trustworthy as its object, and salvation is found in Jesus Christ alone.

*"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."
(Acts 4:12)*

God does not merely define faith, but demonstrates what genuine, biblical faith looks like through the lives of real people. As we come to these opening verses, we are reminded that true faith is not merely spoken; it is lived.

I. What Faith Is (Verses 1-3)

A. Faith is not the ability to manipulate God.

God is not someone we control; He is someone we submit to. Faith is not a way to get God to do what we want; it is a way to trust God to do what He knows is best.

True faith is not about control; it is about surrender.



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- B. Faith is not merely adherence to the right set of beliefs.

You can believe all the right things on paper and still not know the right person.

- C. Faith is not a blind leap into the dark.

Faith is trusting what God has revealed to be true. It is grounded in the character of God and supported by the truth of His Word.

- D. Faith is not simply sincerity or devotion to any belief system.

A person can believe something with all their heart and still be completely mistaken if the object of their faith is not true.

If your faith is not placed in Jesus Christ, then no amount of sincerity can make it right.

- E. The Biblical Definition of Faith (Verses 1-3)

Faith is the inward conviction that God will do exactly what He has promised to do.

“Faith enables the believing soul to treat the future as present and the invisible as seen.” - Dr. J. Oswald Sanders

Faith is confident obedience to God’s Word in spite of circumstances or consequences. It is believing God enough to take Him at His Word, even when you cannot yet see the outcome.

II. What Faith Does (Verses 4-7)

- A. True Faith Worships God (Verse 4)



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Both Abel and Cain came to worship God. On the surface, it may have looked very similar, but the outcome was very different. Abel's sacrifice was accepted, and Cain's was rejected.

Cain came with an offering, but not with surrender. Abel came in faith, and God received it.

God is not impressed with outward activity; He is looking at the heart.

B. True Faith Walks with God (Verses 5-6)

Walking with God means He is not someone you check in with from time to time; He is someone you live life with every day.

C. True Faith Works for God (Verse 7)

You cannot separate true faith from obedience.

Real faith is revealed in long obedience and in a willingness to speak for Christ.

Conclusion: When we look at the lives of Abel, Enoch, and Noah, one truth becomes clear: genuine faith changes the way a person lives. Faith is not merely something we claim with our words or understand in our minds; it is seen in worship, obedience, and a daily walk with God. Hebrews 11 reminds us that true faith trusts God enough to respond to what He says. Most importantly, saving faith is not placed in religion, good works, or sincerity, but in Jesus Christ alone. He is the One who died for our sins and rose again so that we could be saved. The question each person must answer is not simply whether they know about Christ, but whether they have truly trusted Him. And for those who already know Him, this passage challenges us to live out our faith consistently and visibly each day. May our faith be more than words, and may it be reflected in the way we worship, walk, and obey God.



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