

Faith That Looks Absurd: Trusting God When Nothing Makes Sense

There is something deeply uncomfortable about the kind of faith the Bible actually calls us to. Not the tidy, everything-in-order kind of faith where all the pieces are lined up before we take a step. Not the faith that waits for a green light at every intersection. The faith described in Scripture is the kind that looks, from the outside, completely absurd.

And perhaps no story illustrates this better than Noah.

More Than a Children's Story

Most of us grew up hearing about Noah and the ark in Sunday school classrooms with colorful illustrations of smiling animals boarding a wooden boat. But strip away the familiarity and sit with the weight of what actually happened. Here was a man who received a word from God about a catastrophic flood in a world that, as far as anyone knew, had never even experienced rain. He was told to build a massive vessel in the middle of a civilization that had no framework for what was coming. And he did it!

Hebrews 11:7 captures it simply but powerfully: ***Noah, warned about things not yet seen, responded in holy fear and built the ark that saved his family.*** That single verse contains layers of truth worth unpacking.

Faith Trusts What God Says More Than What We See

The first thing Noah's story confronts us with is the question of where we place our trust. It is a deeply human instinct to want everything in order before we commit. We want the finances confirmed, the details sorted, the outcomes reasonably predictable. But that is not faith. That is preparation, and while preparation has its place, it is not the same thing as trusting God.

Noah did not have the animals yet when God told him to build. He did not have a flood to point to as proof that one was coming. He had a word from God, and he had the character of the God who spoke it. That was enough. As Hebrews 11:1 reminds us, ***faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.***

Noah's circumstances did not validate the call. God's character did.

This truth confronts us all with a powerful question: “*Do I trust God more than I trust my own eyes?*” Because if our faith only activates when everything is already in place, it is not really faith at all.

Faith Is Willing to Look Foolish

There is a social cost to genuine obedience. Noah was not building a garden shed in his back yard. He was constructing an enormous ark in plain sight of an entire civilization that thought he had lost his mind. Every day he picked up his tools was a public declaration that he believed in something no one else could see.

This is not an ancient problem. Walking in genuine faith today will look strange to the people around us. It will raise eyebrows at work, create tension in families, and invite questions that are not always friendly. The temptation is to quietly dial down our obedience to a level that does not attract attention. But that is not what we were made for.

Jesus Himself said that His followers are the light of the world, and then immediately pointed out that a light hidden under a bowl serves no purpose. The very things that make our faith look peculiar to a watching world are often the things that make people stop and ask what is different about us. Noah's faithfulness declared something to the people around him. Our faithfulness does the same.

The question is whether we are willing to keep building even when people are watching and laughing?

Faith Obeys Before It Understands

Isaiah 6 gives us one of the most striking glimpses of a divine encounter with God in all of Scripture. Isaiah sees the Lord high and exalted, surrounded by seraphim crying out about His holiness. The doorposts shake. The temple fills with smoke. Isaiah's response is not curiosity or calm reflection. He is undone. He cries out in recognition of his own unworthiness.

And then, after his guilt is taken away and his sin atoned for, he hears the voice of God asking who will go on His behalf. Isaiah's response contains no list of clarifying questions. No request for a detailed itinerary. He simply says, ***here am I, send me.***

That is the posture faith calls us to. Not recklessness, but a settled trust that the God who calls is also the God who provides. Understanding cannot be a prerequisite for obedience. Proverbs 3:5 calls us to ***trust in the Lord with all our heart and lean not on our own understanding.*** That trust is the daily practice of faith. It means releasing our grip on the need to have everything figured out before we say yes.

Faith Keeps Going

The ark was not built in an afternoon. Noah and his family worked through years of ridicule, in a culture growing darker around them, with no visible sign that what God had promised was coming. Faithfulness in that context was not one dramatic moment of courage. It was showing up and doing the work again the next day, and the day after that.

Hebrews 10:23 calls us to ***hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, because the one who promised is faithful.*** That word unswervingly matters. It is the opposite of drifting. It is the posture of someone who has decided that the character of God is more reliable than the shifting circumstances around them.

The same passage goes on to say that God takes no pleasure in those who shrink back. We are not people who shrink back. We are people of faith!

The Invitation

Every one of us carries something God has placed in our hearts. A calling, a direction, a step of obedience that has been waiting while we gathered more information or waited for better conditions. The story of Noah is not just history. It is an invitation to stop waiting for the flood to appear before we start building.

The God who brought the animals to Noah, who sustained an ark on impossible waters, who kept one family alive to carry forward His redemptive plan, is the same God asking what we will do with what He has placed in our hands today.

The question is simple, even if the answer costs something: what part of God's call for your life do you need to say yes to today?