

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

APRIL 12TH-13TH, 2025 // HEBREWS

## THE FLOOD AND FAITH (HEBREWS 11:1-7) EYES FOR THE UNSEEN

As eyesight leads in the natural, faith leads in the spiritual or unseen. We often say, “**Seeing is believing.**” But in Christianity, “Believing is seeing.”

- A person with faith lets the unseen realities of God provide a living, effective power for all aspects of daily life.

## OUR ANCESTORS WON GOD'S APPROVAL

V. 2 shows that faith enabled the heroes of the OT to gain good standing with God.

## IT TAKES FAITH TO BELIEVE GOD MADE THE UNIVERSE

V. 3 accompanies Romans 1:20. Paul alludes to the universe being an arrow that points to God, but it still takes faith to believe He is the Creator. **Creation displays God's power.**

## THE FAITH OF ABEL (GENESIS 4)

Genesis does not tell us exactly why Abel's sacrifice was better than Cain's, but here we get clarity. **It was Abel's genuine faith, as opposed to Cain's half-hearted approach, that made the sacrifice acceptable.** Cain held back, but Abel was all in.

## THE FAITH OF ENOCH (GENESIS 5)

Enoch “walked with God; then he was not there because God took him.” Enoch's escape from death was due to his tremendous faith and **the life he lived that pleased God.**

- **“Without faith it is impossible to please God.” If we have faith like Enoch, we escape eternal death.**

## THE FAITH OF NOAH (GENESIS 6-9)

Noah faced ridicule for being obedient to God and building an ark in preparation for a catastrophic event that “was not yet seen and motivated by godly fear.”

- Noah's **obedience and visible faith made him right with God.** This is a theme Paul talks about in Romans 9:30 and 10:6.

## THE PATRIARCHS AND FAITH (HEBREWS 11:8-22)

## THE FAITH OF FATHER ABRAHAM (GENESIS 12-25)

Once a worshiper of the moon god Nanna, Abraham responded to the call of God and is now the most revered man in all three of the world's largest religions.

- Abraham left his hometown by faith, didn't receive his reward immediately, and didn't even know the location of the Promised Land.

## SOME FACTS ABOUT ABE'S FAITH

**1)** His faith extended to his family. **2)** He had faith by living in a foreign land with no rights or privileges. **3)** He was not just looking for a physical Promised Land, but a spiritual one.

- **We need God as “architect and builder” of all aspects of our lives. We must be dependent on His “foundations.”**

## ABE'S GREATEST DISPLAY OF FAITH (GENESIS 17)

Abe was 100 and Sarah was 90 when God told them they would have children. Sarah laughed at first but then embraced the promise along with Abe.

- Two people “as good as dead” had faith and became the starting point of a people “as numerous as the stars... [and] sand.”

## SUMMARIZING THE PATRIARCHS (VS. 13-16)

Abe, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph had some notable features. **1)** They lived by **faith all the way to death.** **2)** They did not receive their promise in their lifetime. **They trusted God to give future generations what they only hoped for.** **3)** They confessed they were “**temporary residents.**”

## THE RESULT OF STRONG FAITH

God was not ashamed to be called their God and He has prepared a more glorious city and promise for them than they imagined.

- **Obedience activates God's promises. And, in our times of confusion, He not only delivers, but He does so in such a way that exceeds our expectations.**

## ANOTHER GREAT ACT OF FAITH (VS. 17-19)

The same God who miraculously gave Abe a son later asked him to sacrifice his child. Abe's faith was so strong that he thought God would bring his son back from the dead.

- **We are all asked to do this. Whatever God gives us is His, and we must be willing to lay it all down if He asks.**

## FAITH THROUGH GENERATIONS (VS. 20-22)

Abe, Isaac, and Jacob trusted God and passed their faith down to the next generation. Joseph, the 11th son of Jacob, showed his faith in mentioning an exodus of his people from Egypt centuries before it happened.

- **Strong Believers equip others to carry the torch for when they are irrelevant.**

## MOSES AND FAITH (HEBREWS 11:23-28)

### UNIQUE FROM BIRTH

Acts 7:20 says that from birth, Moses was special. His parents realized this and went to great lengths to keep him alive. His parents had such strong faith that they broke the king's edict to save their son.

- Moses' parents trusted God and God honored their faith (Exodus 2:8-9).

## MOSES STEPPED OUT ON FAITH AS AN ADULT

Moses grew up in the lap of luxury under the pharaoh, but he made a deliberate choice to leave those comforts and join in the sufferings of God's people.

- **He refused the temporary pleasures of ease and sin and sought the eternal pleasure of following God.**

## SUFFERING IDENTIFIES US WITH JESUS

Colossians 1:24 says it is a pleasure to suffer like Christ for the church. Isaiah 63:9 says similar things. When Moses suffered, he, in essence, suffered with Christ for His people.

- Hebrews is urging the reader to do the same; **suffer like Christ for His people. This identifies us with Him.**

## FAITH LED MOSES TO GREAT SUCCESS

We know Moses as the man who defied pharaoh, led the Jews out of slavery, split the Red Sea with his staff, and received the 10 Commandments from God.

- **Moses had faith in a God he could not see, and it saved his life multiple times and led him to do great things!**

## ISRAEL AND FAITH (HEBREWS 11:29-40)

### THE FAITH OF ISRAEL

Because of the Jew's faith, their history is full of miraculous events. The first mentioned is Jericho's fall seven days after Joshua's obedience to God's commands (Joshua 2).

- We also read of the pagan prostitute Rahab responding to the Spirit's nudge that moved her to aid the spies.

## NOT ENOUGH TIME TO MENTION THEM ALL (V. 32)

The author mentions Gideon (Judges 6-8), Barak (Judges 4-5), Samson (Judges 13-16), and Jephthah (Judges 11-12) but confesses there is not enough time to brag on their faith.

- The readers would have known these stories, especially about Samuel and the great King David.

## NINE STATEMENTS OF EXTRAORDINARY FAITH

Faith **conquered** kingdoms, administered **justice** (Joshua 8), obtained **promises** (1 Samuel 7), shut the mouths of lions, **quenched raging fires** (Daniel 3; 6), **escaped** the edge of the sword, gained **strength** after being weak (Isaiah 38), became **mighty** in battle, and **put foreign armies to flight** (2 Samuel 8).

## MORE REMARKABLE FAITH (VS. 35-38)

Through faith, Elisha raised a woman's son back to life. Faith enabled people to be tortured, mocked, and imprisoned but not waiver in their hope in God.

- **Faith does not stop adversity but gives us the power to endure it, mature, and grow closer to God through it.**

## FROM A GREATER SOURCE

The extreme difficulties faced by the OT heroes led the author to exclaim that the “**world was not worthy of them.**”

- Faith in God does not guarantee comfort but promises a great reward. **The world is not worthy of the faithful, because our source of hope is not of this world.**

## WE ARE APPROVED BY FAITH

We may not “receive [our] promise” while on Earth, but are assured **God doesn't “delay His promise, as some understand delay” (2 Peter 3:9).**

- **God faithfully honors obedience and dedication.** Faith unlocks God's favor and will eventually place us in the same paradise as the heroes of our faith.

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO HAVE FAITH?

- Faith is complete confidence and trust. When it comes to the Christian faith, we are not only to know the nature and truth of God but are also to actively live out His teachings and principles through trust and obedience. **Obedience demonstrates trust and true faith.**

## FAITH PRODUCES RESULTS

- **Strong and active faith helps us in every corner of life:** times of fear, success in the truly important things, personal discipline, equipping future generations, having stronger relationships, finding joy, contentment, peace, and much more.

## WHERE IN OUR LIVES DO WE LACK FAITH?

- Trusting God in the unseen (creation)
- Being committed and “all in” (Abel)
- Living out faith in our daily lives (Enoch)
- Holding on in times of ridicule (Noah)
- When the odds are against us (Abe, Sarah)
- Passing it down (Abe, Isaac, Jacob)
- Willing to sacrifice it all for God (Moses)

## WHAT ARE WE DOING TO BUILD FAITH?

- Are we **praying, reading, listening, obeying**?
- Are we **consistent**?
- Are we **trusting God with everything**, knowing it is all His anyway?
- Do we **consult God** with major decisions?
- **Do we truly believe He is the only source for what we need?** Or is it God and \_\_\_\_?