

Jesus Christ - The Author and Finisher of Our Faith in the Book of Hebrews (Part 3 - Chapters 11-13)

Meeting 2

The Faith of God

We have all received equally precious faith. This wonderful faith is very precious because it is **the faith of God**. It is impossible to define. The definition of faith in Hebrews 11:1 does not describe the actual substance of this faith itself. God has this power, authority, and indescribable characteristic that what He says becomes real. None of us are able to do that. Hebrews 1:2 says, “[God] *has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.*” The universe was made in Him, through Him and unto Him (Col. 1:16). This is wonderful! It is unbelievable, yet for us it is believable! The source of the whole creation is God. He speaks and all of His creation listens to Him. The whole creation is even waiting for and expecting the manifestation of the sons of God because they are also subject to corruption due to the fall of man (Rom. 8:19-20). He is also “*upholding all things by the word of His power*” (Heb. 1:3). We as human beings do not have the ability to apprehend such a power because we do not have it. But God has it – it is the faith of God (Gk. “ΕΧΕΤΕ ΠΙΣΤΙΝ ΘΕΟΥ”).

Many years ago, when I realized what the faith of God is, I saw that faith is very **powerful**. No wonder when the Lord cursed the fig tree, within one day, the beautiful fig tree withered (Mark 11:14, 20). Peter said, “*Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away!*” (Mark 11:21). And the Lord answered, “*Have the faith of God*” (Mark 11:22 KJV). Having faith is not just believing God or having faith in God but having the faith of God. This means that what the Lord did to the fig

tree was through the faith of God. That is a part of God; it is a part of His divine nature and being. What He says will happen. His word is the word of power. Unfortunately, what man says many times doesn't count; nobody keeps their word. But even if they do, the promises kept are in very small matters. That is not the case with the word of power: whatever God says comes into being. That is why it is written that **Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith** because He Himself is this very faith (Heb. 12:2).

We all have the same spirit of faith (2 Cor. 4:13). After the Holy Spirit comes into our spirit, we are born again of the Holy Spirit, and faith comes in through the Holy Spirit. The love of God was poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:5); otherwise, we would only have our human love and not have the love of God. So also, we have received this equally precious faith from God (2 Pet. 1:1). Don't say, "He is stronger because he has the faith, but I'm weak because I don't have the faith." No, we all have the same spirit of faith because it is the faith of God given to us. We have received equally precious faith.

We need to mingle the word of God with faith. This is an important key! It depends on you and how you use this faith. You have to activate it! You must learn not to be passive but to be active in exercising this faith to mingle it with the word of God. Don't just believe anything people say. Faith does not work just by believing a silly doctrine someone said. Faith works if it is spoken by God. Every promise of God you must mingle with faith. Every word that is spoken out of the mouth of the living God directly to you or through reading the Bible when the Spirit touches you, you have to learn to mingle the word with faith. Pray, meditate on it, mingle it with prayer through the spirit of faith. Then you will see the substantiation. This word is very important. So, don't just be hearer and go home and do nothing about it (Jam. 1:22-25); nothing will happen. But if you hear the word of God and what God says, and are active to pursue it, "I am going to do it. I will experience this reality," this will lead you to the evidence. You will have the substantiation – you will gain the substance of what God says.

Abel

The first man that is mentioned in Hebrews 11 is Abel, one of the sons of Adam. *“By faith, Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he **obtained witness** that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts...”* (Heb. 11:4). Abel obtained witness from God since it was God who testified and bore witness of Abel’s gifts. You will see the substantiating and also the evidence. It is wonderful that the first thing mentioned in the history of faith is the matter of offering a more excellent sacrifice. Whether you like it or not, or believe that you need it or not, it is written.

The first incident of the matter of faith is connected with a more excellent sacrifice, an offering brought by Abel to God.

*“...through which he obtained witness that **he was righteous**”* because he did not want to bring anything of himself. We by nature are fallen and unrighteous. Recall Romans 3:10, *“There is none righteous, no, not one.”* So, we cannot bring anything of ourselves. If we do, it is not righteous because we are not righteous. In our flesh and self, none of us are righteous. But Christ is our righteousness. We must bring Christ.

*“...**God testifying of his gifts...**”* We must ask God what we should bring to Him. It is written that we should bring the best to Him, the best of our experience of Christ. Abel brought an offering that was an animal of the herd. He knew that there needed to be the shedding of the blood for the remission of sins. Certainly, Abel knew from his parents, Adam and Eve, that this is what God did and what God had shown them. But Cain brought something of his sweat, from tilling the ground which had been cursed. So, we need to bring what pleases God. The only thing that pleases God is Christ. By faith Abel believed what God said and brought what God wanted. Don’t just bring anything but bring Christ. Leviticus describes all the offerings we can bring to God our Father: the burnt offering, the meal offering, the peace offering with the wave and heave offerings, the sin offering, and the trespass offering. In the new covenant, the Lord said: *“...and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more”* (Heb. 8:12b). How is that possible? Every time we receive the real forgiveness of sins because we have the trespass offering and the sin offering. We have the real forgiveness! Don’t you

appreciate that? We always like to justify ourselves. With God, don't justify yourself, but bring Him such an offering. We are very thankful that Christ shed His precious blood; He is the wonderful trespass offering. All the offerings are there for us to experience. Learn to bring the best of the best to the Father. What happened to Cain? Nothing but his name was mentioned.

Enoch

*“By faith, Enoch was taken away so that **he did not see death**, ‘and was not found, because God had taken him”* (Heb. 11:5a). Would you like to be raptured to be the firstfruits? We all want to be raptured like Enoch. I'm so glad the second person mentioned is Enoch. Enoch was taken, raptured, so that he did not see death. How many times have you told the Lord, “Lord, I don't want to taste death. I want to be raptured”? We are living in a time where it is very possible that we won't taste death but can be raptured. This is a wonderful promise! Do you believe this promise? This is not the time to die or pass away because we have the possibility of being taken to stand with the Lamb on Mount Zion (Rev. 14:1-5)! The Lord Himself said, *“Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom”* (Matt. 16:28). Peter testified that he was an eyewitness of His majesty (2 Pet. 1:16). On the Mount of Transfiguration, Peter, James and John saw the Lord being transfigured – they saw His glory (Matt. 17:2; Mark 9:2; Luke 9:29). But today we will see something better. We will be raptured to stand with Him on Mount Zion before the throne of God. Isn't that exciting? It is wonderful that Enoch *“did not see death and **was not found because God had taken him”*** (Heb. 11:5b). In the last 3.5 years of this age, the time in which the beast is here, none of us will want to be here on the earth. Enoch was not found because God had taken him. The only way to escape the last 3.5 years is to be taken by God. We believe that time is coming.

*“...for before he was taken **he had this testimony, that he pleased God”*** (Heb. 11:5c). The way to be taken is to have the testimony from God that He was pleased with you. How many times have you done things to please and obey Him? *“This is My beloved Son in whom I am well*

pleased" (Matt. 3:17). How is God well pleased with the Lord Jesus? It was not because the Lord Jesus was God. No, the Lord Jesus as a Man did everything that pleased God: *"I always do those things that please Him"* (John 8:29b). We need to learn from Him. That is what it means to walk with God. If you walk with God, He will let you know a lot of things and will talk to you. When He is speaking to you, how do you react – do you agree with Him, say yes, and do it? Are you walking with God side by side, and following the Lamb wherever He goes? Enoch had this testimony from God that He pleased God. Nobody else except God can give you this testimony! *"Lord, we want to be the people and sons, who please you, who walk with God."* Paul said, *"For to me, to live is Christ"* (Phil. 1:21) – which is another way of saying "walking with God."

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him..." (Heb. 11:6a). That means without your cooperation to substantiate everything He said to you, it is impossible to please Him. Whatever He says to you, you must want to substantiate, to experience, and to have the evidence of it. This is wonderful.

"...for he who comes to God must believe that He is" (Heb. 11:6b). It just says that "He is." What is He to you? He is God. But Satan also believes there is a God. What is the difference? What is He? He is whatever He is in your daily living. You say He is God, but you live as if He is not there. Does He not see what you are doing? You don't look to Him. You don't listen to Him. You don't have a heart that says, "Lord, I want to know You." Paul said that he wanted to *"know Him and the power of His resurrection, the fellowship of His suffering..."* (Phil. 3:10), as if he did not know Him enough. So what is He to you? How much do you know Him? If I was asked to describe God, the first thing I might say is that He is invisible. Of course, He is invisible. You cannot see Him with your physical eyes; but you can see Him with the eyes of your understanding being enlightened that you might know Him (Eph. 1:18). He is God! There is so much to know of Him in your daily experience! Is He with you? Do you have the consciousness of His presence? Do you do all things that are pleasing to Him? Are you walking with Him? Do you hear Him? What He is depends on you. If you desire to know Him, He is so much. You cannot express Him enough or know Him enough. You must believe that He is!

“And that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Heb. 11:6c). This is an important point in order to please God: to seek Him diligently. If you just seek Him once in a while when you need Him and are in trouble; but not when you are so busy doing so many things – that is not diligently seeking Him. To diligently seek Him is to have a desire, “Lord, I want to know You.” It is like Paul who wanted to know Christ, to pursue Him, to press toward the mark (Phil. 3:10-14). The word “diligent” is very important – especially at this stage at the end of this age we need diligence (2 Pet. 1:5, 10; 3:14). We are diligent in so many things, but we have to be diligent in seeking God. Praise the Lord, without faith, it is impossible to please Him!

Noah

Noah is a very important person and a milestone. The time from Abel to Noah is one section of the Bible. In the beginning, God created everything, then Adam fell. By the time of Noah, mankind’s development was so terrible and corrupted. Mankind was no longer just mankind but was mixed with strange beings that were neither man nor angels. They were called Nephilim, giants. Do not think that it will not happen again, because the Lord said that the days of His coming are like the days of Noah. So God had to destroy everything with the flood.

Already at the time of Enoch, Enoch knew about the flood. When he bore a son, God had already told him that the flood would come when his son died, which is why he named his son Methuselah. Then Enoch walked with God for 300 years and was taken. His son lived to be 969 years old. Enoch knew of the flood a long time before it came. If you knew the flood would come 969 years later, what would you do? Maybe you would think, “Oh yeah, I have plenty of time! I’m going to take it easy and do this and that.” Or if you start to walk with God, you might not do it intensely, slowly, and not every day. But Enoch did not do that. He did not waste any time! He started to learn to walk with God immediately. It takes time to learn to walk with God because we are fallen. We may have the desire to walk with God today, but when the time comes to do it, we don’t because our flesh says, “No! Don’t walk

with God. I want to do what I like. I'll follow Him tomorrow. Lord, I still have time (especially if I knew I had 900 plus years to go)." We would wait until the last minute. This is our fallen human nature. We don't redeem the time. Enoch named His son Methuselah. So, every day he saw his son and called out his name, "Methuselah, come!" What do you think he thought about? He did not only see Methuselah coming, but he must have also thought, "The flood is coming!" We need to be reminded. People think, "He is not coming – it's been 2000 years and He hasn't come." Well, after 2000 years, you should believe that He is coming!

But Noah lived at the time when the flood was about to come. His grandfather would tell him that the flood is coming. Methuselah lived so long because God was also waiting for the right timing. Are we living in the time of Noah today? Are you Noah? God's word says that Noah was a righteous man, even a perfect man; he walked with God just as Enoch did (Gen. 6:9; 7:1). But walking with God was not enough to be saved at that time. There is always something more. Evil had increased during the time of Noah. So Noah's experience of Christ also had to increase! It was at this time that Noah began to build the ark. What are we building today – what is our ark? Today, we are building the kingdom of priests. God's building is bigger today. It is not just an ark, although the ark is a picture of Christ. Later, at the time of Moses, God built a tabernacle, a dwelling place of God, a kingdom of priests, a nation. At the time of Solomon, that temple was glorious, big and strong, much bigger and more solid than an ark. Today the Lord is building the heavenly Jerusalem with a heavenly nature, not made by man, not made with man's hands, and is not of this creation (Heb. 8:2; 9:11). It is built with gold, silver, precious stones and pearls, with the reality of Christ, with the heavenly substance. All things built by man collapse because they are built by man's hands. The Lord will shake everything so that only what is unshakeable will remain. What are we building today? We are today's Noah, and this world is so evil. If you have eyes to see and understanding to realize what is happening today, you will see that we are truly living like the days of Noah. The Lord said, "*But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be*" (Matt. 24:37; Luke 17:26).

*“By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, **moved with godly fear**, prepared an ark for the saving of his household...”* (Heb. 11:7a). God warned him of things not yet seen, so Noah moved with godly fear like His ancestor, Enoch, who was also moved with godly fear. People will laugh at us and say, “You said the Lord is coming, but He’s not!” Just wait! We need godly fear, the fear of God. We have been emphasizing that in the book of Malachi. Hebrews 12:28 says that we must *“serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.”* Psalm 147:10-11 says, *“He [God] does not delight in the strength of the horse; He takes no pleasure in the legs of a man. The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him.”* Are you moved with godly fear? Godly fear means you respect God and know what His plan is, and you are part of it. It is not a fear that makes you nervous. When you go to work, you have respect for the company you work for. You don’t just do whatever you like because you have a “company fear.” You are not nervous going to work, but you have respect for the company. To have godly fear means you respect God and you serve Him.

Noah moved with godly fear and first *“**prepared an ark for the saving of His household...**”* (Heb. 11:7b). Praise the Lord! Remember your household, and your family. Don’t just think of yourself but take care of your family. Your family is very dear. None of the children of the saints should be lost. We should pray for them, love them, care for them, and show them the right way with wisdom and understanding. Look at the example of Enoch to Noah: Enoch had godly offspring (see Mal. 2:15).

*“...**by which he condemned the world...**”* (Heb. 11:7c). By building the ark, Noah judged the world. Every time people saw the ark at that time, they would ask Noah, “What are you doing building this crazy thing?” Noah would tell them, “The flood, judgment is coming!”

*“...and became **heir of the righteousness**”* (Heb. 11:7d). He became heir of the righteousness of the coming kingdom of peace and righteousness. What do you want to inherit when the Lord comes? We want to inherit the kingdom, and be co-kings and co-rulers with Christ, our Melchizedek, King of righteousness and peace. Do you think of this? And do you have a desire to inherit this? If you are an architect, do you desire to inherit an architecture firm? The biggest architectural

company is God's company whose builder and architect is God Himself. There is no greater architect than God. He is the One who builds all things (Heb. 3:4). Learn from God how to be a good architect. What is God not? He is everything! We can learn from Him.

Noah *"became heir of the righteousness **which is according to faith**"* (Heb. 11:7e). Everything is according to his faith. If you don't have faith now, don't work to substantiate the inheritance piece by piece and day by day, and don't have the evidence now, then when the time comes, will you be an heir of the righteousness to come? When does this inheritance begin? Now! Today! If you don't substantiate it today, you won't make it. Now is the time to substantiate the wonderful kingdom that is coming by faith. You can have the evidence. The Lord will testify to you, "You are on the right track. You are on the highway of holiness, the way of righteousness." It is good to always ask Him and turn to Him, "Am I well pleasing to you? What do you say about my condition? Am I better than I was before? How far am I in the process of transformation?" You can look at yourself and will know if there is transformation in your life. You cannot say, "I don't know." Humanly speaking, you know how much you have grown physically, how old you are, and what you have learned and personally achieved until now. You are a living testimony of what you have accomplished or have not accomplished. How is it spiritually? We should know! Paul told Timothy to have his progress be known by all (1 Tim. 4:15). If no one can see progress and you yourself cannot see it, then there is no transformation. But God will testify to you. Ask God, "How am I doing? How far should I go? How much further in order to make it to be an heir of righteousness of the kingdom of righteousness and peace?" It starts at home, in your family, in your relationship with one another, in the church life, and in your personal, private life. Praise the Lord!

Noah did not build the ark in one day, one week or one year. So preparation does take time. Now is the time to prepare! The building of the ark did not start at the time of Enoch but at the time of Noah. If we don't start preparing now, I don't know if we can make it. But you can be sure to make it if you start the building now, a little bit every day. God does not require building overnight. Otherwise, He would have

sent a company of angels to help Noah. But Noah did not have that kind of help. Who will help you? Christ in you, the Holy Spirit. If that is not enough, nothing would be enough, not even a legion of angels. It depends on how we now substantiate this building work by faith and have the evidence. Then let God testify to your work. Let us prepare for the Lord's coming!

Note: The above content has not been reviewed by the speaker.