

“The Testimony Of Abel”
“The Just Shall Live By Faith”
Hebrews 11:4

Introduction:

1. **IE:** When It Comes To Racing, You Usually Have To Start Well In Order To Finish Well!
 - Especially In Speed Skating!
 - Dan Jansen:
 - Started In The Olympics In 1984 - Sarajevo, Yugoslavia
 - At 18 Years Old, Finished 16th In The 1,000 Meters & A Surprising 4th In The 500 Meters!
 - 1987 - Mononucleosis - Overcome - Rising Star
 - Favorite To Win Gold In Calgary 1988!
 - “Early on the morning of February 14, the day of the 500 Olympic race, he received a phone call telling him that his 27-year-old sister was dying. The phone was put by Jane's ear and Jansen told her, “I love you.” Six hours later, he learned Jane had died. Jansen sought the advice of his mother, Gerry, about whether he should compete. She urged her son to race. “When I got out to the track, nothing felt the same,” Jansen said. “My skates were slipping around and I couldn't control them, and when that happens it's hard to think you're going to have a good race. The day before, there was nothing that was going to make me lose. On that day, there was nothing that was going to make me win.” He was right. First, he committed a rare false start. Then he slipped and fell on the first turn.”
 - The Way Dan Jansen Started The Race – In Grief, With A False Start & A Slip – Told The Story Of How He Would Finish The Race!
2. So It Is With The Christian Life – Which Is A Life Of Faith!
 - You Can't Live By Faith If You Don't Have Faith!
 - Faith Is Central In The Life Of A Christian!
 - But What Makes You A Person Of Faith?
 - How Do You Know You Have Started Your Christian Life In The Right Way? On The Right Foot?
 - Faith Is Not Something You Can “Work Up” – Like Courage Or Strength!
 - Hebrews 10:38 - “Now The Just Shall Live By Faith!”
 - Only The JUST Shall Live By Faith!
 - This Is Where It Starts!
 - You Have To FIRST Be Just / Righteous Before God BEFORE You Can Live A Live Of Faith!
3. But What Does This Mean?
 - Does This Mean I Am Saved By Doing Good Works?
 - Clearly, No!
 - Titus 3:5 - “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us!”
 - Ephesians 2:8-9 - “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast!”
 - There Are Two Kinds Of Righteousness:
 - A Righteous Service For God!
 - A Righteous Standing Before God!
 - One Must Come Before The Other!
4. The Life Of Abel Reveals “The Beginning Of The Life Of Faith!” (Pink)
 - He Is The First Mentioned & The First Of Many Things:
 - Abel - “Breath / Vapor” - Found In Genesis 4:1-15 - Reminds Us Of James 4:14 - “For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away!”
 - First Shepherd / True Worshiper / Righteous Man / Martyr // Prophet (Matthew 23:35 - Christ)
 - And Through His Life You Will Find That “The Beginning Of The Life Of Faith” Is RIGHTEOUSNESS!
 - How Do You Know This?
 - From The Eyewitness Testimony Seen From Abel's Life:
 - 2 Witnesses!

- Must Listen To - If You Want To Live Life Of Faith (Hope So - Look At 11:6)!
- 5. Have You Started The Life Of Faith On The Right Foot?

* Through Abel's Life, You Must Listen To:

1. ***The Witness Of God!***

- Hebrews 11:4a - "By Faith Abel Offered Unto God A More Excellent Sacrifice Than Cain, By Which He Obtained Witness That He Was Righteous!"
 - First Act Of Worship By Man!
 - First Act Of Sacrifice By Man!
 - All Performed By Abel "By Faith" – How Did Able Perform This Worship & Sacrifice By Faith? How Did He Know What To Do?
 - Romans 10:17 - "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God!"
 - The Basis - The Word Of God - What God Revealed About Himself To Adam & Eve, Abel's Parents!
- God's Righteous Nature!
 - Through His Word, He Revealed Himself To Be: Creator / Caregiver / Commander
 - Worthy To Be Worshipped!
 - This Is Why Abel Came & "Offered Unto God"!
 - By Faith Abel Recognized God's Righteous Nature!
- God's Righteous Demand!
 - Genesis 3:16-21 - "Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. / And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: ***cursed is the ground*** for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; / Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; / In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return. / And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living. / ***Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them!***"
 - Through His Word, He Revealed His Righteous Demands On Account Of Man's Sin!
 - There Must Be A Covering!
 - It Cannot Come From Man!
 - It Must Be Provided By God!
 - There Must Involve Death & Shedding Of Blood!
 - Hebrews 9:22 - "Without shedding of blood is no remission!"
 - Even At This Early Stage - Small Light!
 - There Needed To Be A Sacrifice Of Blood!
 - What About Cain's Sacrifice?
 - This Is Why Abel Came & "Offered Unto God A More Excellent Sacrifice!"
 - By Faith Abel Realized God's Righteous Demand!
- The Beginning Of Abel's Life Of Faith Was Righteousness!
 - But How Did He Become Righteous?
 - Was It Through His Offering & Sacrifice?
 - No - Says: "He obtained witness that he was righteous" Not That "He Did Righteousness" - It Wasn't His Conduct - It Was His Character - It Wasn't His Service - It Was His Standing Before God!
 - God Justified Abel – Made Him Righteous – So That He Could Live By Faith!
- The Witness Of God:
 - "There Is None Righteous, No Not One!" (Romans 3:10)
- To Live The Life Of Faith, You Must First:
 - Recognize God's Righteous Nature!
 - Realize God's Righteous Demands!
 - You Need God's Righteousness!

* Through Abel's Life, You Must Listen To:

2. ***The Witness Of Abel!***

- Hebrews 11:4b - "God Testifying Of His Gifts: And By It He Being Dead Yet Speaketh!"
- God's Righteous Gift!
 - God Uses Abel's Gift To Point To His Own Gift – The Gift Of Righteousness Needed To Enter Into His Presence!
 - What Will Make You Righteous?
 - Which You First Need Before You Can Live & Serve By Faith?
 - Genesis 4:4 - "And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering!"
 - A Lamb – Not Abel's, But God's!
 - A Firstling – Not Abel's But God's!
 - A Choice, "Fat" One – Not Abel's, But God's!
 - An Offering – Not Abel's, But God's!
 - This Is Why God "Testified Of His Gifts" – Because Abel's Gifts Were An Object Lesson Of What Was Necessary For God's "Respect!"
 - By Faith Abel Received God's Righteous Gift!
- God's Righteous Plan!
 - God Now Uses Abel As A Witness Throughout The Ages Of His Plan To Provide This Gift!
 - Blood – Not Abel's, But God's!
 - By Faith Abel Relied Upon God's Righteous Plan!
- The Witness Of Abel:
 - There Is One Righteous – Only One!
- To Live The Life Of Faith, You Must First:
 - Receive God's Righteous Gift!
 - Rely Upon God's Righteous Plan!

Conclusion:

1. Dan Jansen:
 - 1992 Olympics - Albertville, France
 - Again Disappointment - Slips
 - 1994 - Lillehammer, Norway
 - 1,000 Meter - Started Strong - Continued Strong - Finished Strong - New World Record & Gold Medal - After 10 Years!
2. Have You Started The Life Of Faith On The Right Foot?
 - Only The JUST Shall Live By Faith!
 - This Is The Beginning Of The Life Of Faith!
 - It Is Not About Your Service To God – It Is About Your Standing Before God – You Must Be Righteous!
 - You Can Be "Obtain Witness That You Are Righteous" The Same Way Abel Did!
 - By Recognizing God's Righteous Nature!
 - By Realizing God's Righteous Demands!
 - By Receiving God's Righteous Gift!
 - By Relying Upon God's Righteous Plan!
 - Only When You Start The Life Of Faith In This Way, Can You Live By The Faith That Is Necessary To Please God!

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