

Subject: Noah's Saving Faith

Scripture: Hebrews 11:7

By faith we believe God created everything out of nothing. By faith Abel worshiped God in an acceptable manner and thought he is dead, yet he speaks to us. By faith Enoch walked with God and had a testimony of pleasing God. By faith Noah worked to build a ship that was unsinkable when the flood came. We see a pattern, don't we? By faith Abel worshiped God. By faith Enoch walked with God. By faith Noah worked for God. We find the story of Noah in Genesis 6-9.

1. Noah's faith caused him to work

By faith Noah built the ark. He did something. Noah's faith was not known by what he thought or what he said, but by what he did. **James 2:17** *Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.* What faith Noah had. He lived many miles from the ocean and he had never seen rain, much less a flood. What faith it took for him to chop down that first tree and start building that ark. He not only had power to start the project, he had power to stay with the project for 120 years until it was done. Some of our church family have visited the ark in Kentucky.

We are saved by grace through faith unto good works (Eph. 2:8-10). We are not saved by faith and works, but we are saved by a faith that works. We are saved by grace through faith alone, but the faith that saves is never alone. **James 2:18** *Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works.*

How do you know if your faith is real? How do you know that anybody's faith is real? Does your faith lead you to action? If faith doesn't lead to action it is a faulty faith, a phony faith. If faith doesn't carry a person to worship and work, it won't carry him to heaven.

Faith involves the whole person: mind, heart, and will. Noah first knew (mind), then he believed (heart), and he obeyed (will).

2. Noah's faith was motivated by fear

Noah not only believed God; he feared God. God told Noah that He was going to send judgment in the form of a flood and Noah moved into action. Fear is a healthy thing. God has put some healthy fear inside of us (fear of fire, heights, drowning, lightning). How much more we ought to fear God. **Proverbs 1:7** *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.* **Hebrews 10:31** *It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

Jesus had more to say about Hell than about Heaven. **Matthew 10:28** *And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.* It is better to frighten someone into Heaven than to let them sleepwalk into Hell. Those words in *Amazing Grace* are right on target: "Twas grace that taught my heart to fear and grace my fears relieved."

3. Noah's faith blessed his family

Noah prepared an ark “to the saving of his house.” That’s not talking about the house he lived in, but his household, his family. Noah was concerned about his family. Eight people were saved on board that ark: Noah, Mrs. Noah, Shem, Ham, Japheth, and their three wives. That didn’t happen by chance or accident. This is a picture of what God wants for every family. God wants whole families to believe and be saved.

- Joshua’s family – *Joshua 24:15* ...as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.
- The jailer’s family – *Acts 16:30-31*³⁰ And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?³¹ And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

As Noah worked on that ark, he worked on his family. They saw that he walked with God and God was real to him and so they wanted to trust God, too. Three boys got into a bragging contest one day. One boy said, “My daddy knows the mayor.” Another boy said, “That’s nothing. My dad knows the governor.” Finally the third boy said, “I’ve got you all beat. My daddy knows God.”

Now imagine another home for a minute and imagine another daddy. His son comes home that afternoon and says, “Hey Dad, I stopped by to see Mr. Noah. He’s still working on that big boat, and he told me why. He said that God was running out of patience and that He was going to judge the world and will send a flood of water one day.” The dad begins to laugh, “Son, Mr. Noah has been working on that boat for over a hundred years and he’s always said that. He’s crazy, son. He used to try to scare us with that story when I was your age. He even told your papaw the same thing when he was a boy. There’s nothing to it.” The sad truth is not only that some dads will go to Hell, but even worse is they won’t go to Hell alone. They’re leading the way for their family.

4. Noah’s faith condemned of the world

His work on that ark not only proved his faith, but he revealed the unbelief of others. The Bible says that by the work he did on the ark he “condemned the world.” Noah was not only a builder, he was a preacher. 2 Peter 2:5 says Noah was “a preacher of righteousness.” Every nail he hammered was a reminder, “Judgment is coming.” Every board he sawed was a reminder, “Judgment is coming.” But they would not listen. Jesus said that this world is going to be like the days of Noah when Jesus comes back.

- *Matthew 24:37-39*³⁷ But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.³⁸ For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark,³⁹ And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. The days of Noah just before the flood were days of indifference, immorality, and ignorance.

God is forecasting judgment on this world: “As it was, so shall it be.”

5. Noah’s faith was rewarded by God

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Noah “became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.” By faith Noah was an heir of two things:

- He received the righteousness of God

He was in right standing with God. This is worth more than anything else.

- He inherited God’s new world

Everybody who died in the flood lost everything they had. Noah left everything when he went on board that ark, but when Noah came off the ark he inherited a brand new world. The People called Noah a fool for building that ark, but Noah was no fool. He inherited the righteousness of God and the riches of a new world, all because God and took Him at His word. Jim Elliot wrote this in the front of his Bible: “He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”

The Bible says the earth will not be destroyed again by a flood. Next time it will be destroyed by fire. God’s people are going to inherit a new world.

2 Peter 3:13-14 ¹³ *Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.* ¹⁴ *Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.*

Saving faith takes God at His word. God says what He means and He means what He says. Warning after warning was issued about Hurricane Irma and still some people ignored the warnings. All we can do is tell the truth and then live in such a way that backs up what we say. After that it’s up to every person what they are going to do.