

True and Genuine Faith.

Introduction

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (2) For by it the elders obtained a good report. (3) Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." Hebrews 11:1 – 3

This morning we are going to look at our faith in God the Father, Jesus Christ the Father's Son, The Father's Holy Spirit, and The Word of God. Through the scriptures we see many people of faith:

- **Hebrews 11:11** "Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised." Sarah had genuine faith in God, her laughter was not at God but at her age but Sarah believed God in true faith because God said she had faith. **Genesis 18:10 - 15** *"And he said, I will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life; and, lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son. And Sarah heard it in the tent door, which was behind him. (11) Now Abraham and Sarah were old and well stricken in age; and it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. (12) Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also? (13) And the LORD said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old? (14) Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son. (15) Then Sarah denied, saying, I laughed not; for she was afraid. And he said, Nay; but thou didst laugh."* Sarah thinks this too good news to be true, and therefore cannot as yet find in her heart to believe it: but her faith was strong in God' ability to deliver. This is why God put it here in Hebrews.
- It was by faith in God Noah built an humongous Ark. **Hebrews 11:7** *"By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith."* he was "forewarned of things not seen as yet," that is, of a great and severe judgment, such as the world had never yet seen. God told Noah to build an Ark of salvation to these eight souls and many animals because God was

about to destroy mankind, people laughed and denied the warning because of their evil hearts, until the rains started and went on for 40 – 24hour cycles until every one and thing was dead. But Noah’s faith was strong, true, and genuine in God. **Genesis 6:5 - 8** *"And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. (6) And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. (7) And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. (8) But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD."*

Genesis 6:14 *"Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch."* God detailed the Ark for Noah then it says **Genesis 6:22** *"Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he."* Why? this was never seen before, what caused Naoh to spend all these years to build this ark, Noah had true and genuian faith in God. **Genesis 7:17** *"And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lift up above the earth."* It is because of Noah’s faith in God that civilization lives today. **Genesis 7:21 - 24** *"And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man: (22) All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died. (23) And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark. (24) And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days."* It was by Noah believing God, without question that something that had never happened before was about to occur that he spent years building an Ark.

While there are many other examples both in the old and new testaments we chose these because they are more relevant to us all. We cannot leave out the faith of both Mary and Joseph in the birth of Jesus.

- God said **Hebrews 11:3** *“Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.”* It is our true and genuine faith that causes us to believe, not just how the world was made but all worlds were made. They were not made out of pre-existent matter, but out of nothing but God’s words. **Genesis 1:1** *“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”* There is more doubt of this than even we know, there is much debate on this subject. God, who is eternally-existent is the actual source of everything that exist. People doubt it, some, or all but people doubt it. Paul wrote in, **Romans 1:20 - 21** *“For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: (21) Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”* Believing lies and not God in His word. **2 Timothy 3:16** *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: (17) That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”* Believing God is believing His word, IN TRUTH and truth is a gift and faith is a gift.
- God said, *“so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.”* Faith is believing God even when it seems impossible. Mark wrote in, **Mark 10:27** *“And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.”* This is faith, believing even when it is impossible in our minds. Faith is walking in God’s word when we cannot see nor understand. Not knowing the end results or not knowing the possibility or its accomplishment. When the angel speaking to Mary about her conception of Jesus said these words, **Luke 1:37** *“For with God nothing shall be impossible.”* A virgin had a child, of God’s own seed. Believing that God one day shall make us like Him, **Philippians 3:21** *“Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.”* Even as sinners will be as though we never sinned, not in thought but reality. That we will one day stand in heaven as children of the Infallible God not children of sinful men. DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?

- Hebrews 11:2 *“For by it the elders obtained a good report.”* Without question True and Genuine faith is confident obedience to God’s Word despite circumstances and consequences. Read that these verses again and let them soak into your mind and heart. The words *“obtained a good report”* means - to be a witness, that is, one that testifies of faith – all these folks mentioned in Hebrews 11 are witness of God, His power, His ability, and of His gift of His faith in them as a gift. We have nothing, no power, no faith, and no abilities of accomplishment. Only by God’s faith given to us. It is only in this that we are able to be saved, to understand and walk in His word, to believe the impossible is possible. It is only in this faith that know that the word of God is absolute truth, and that God will accomplish His blessed will. It is only in the faith that we can be saved in Jesus Christ, it is only in this faith that we can trust God that He will never leave us not forsake us, it is only in this faith that we know the Holy Spirit is in us and will never leave us, it is only in this faith that we can believe the word of God to be infallible and will be true till the end. It is this faith that we too are good witnesses for God on this dark, evil, and ungodly world.
- How is your faith? Is it strong, does it need exercise, read God’s word and believe it. Pray that God will deliver more faith to you until you are able to move a mountain by your faith it is not strong enough. **Mark 11:22 - 24** *"And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. (23) For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. (24) Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."* This power is not in us, but in God, as it is with everything we can accomplish as good witness in Christ.