

# LORD, INCREASE OUR FAITH

## Sermon Two – “By Faith We Worship”

Text: Hebrews 10:38-11:4

**INTRODUCTION:** “Now the just shall live *by faith*.” This is a quote from Habakkuk 2:4 – “Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: *but the just shall live by his faith*.” In our first message for this sermon series we saw that a form of this truth is quoted in Romans 1:17 where the emphasis is on the just, in Galatians 3:11 where the emphasis is on how the just shall live, and in Hebrews 10:38 where the emphasis is on faith.

In our last message we saw that the “*just*” (*dikaio*s) person is one who has been declared to be righteous because he has been made righteous by trusting in the finished work of Christ (Romans 5:1). The person who is just is a person who is a born-again believer in Christ. He is a person who is a Christian.

We also saw in our last message that “*by faith*” is the only way a Christian is to live. The just should live by continued confidence in God. If the “*just*” is to live by faith, the “*just*” must know what faith is. What is faith? Last time we learned that:

**A. Faith is Confidence** (Hebrews 11:1 – “*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, . . .*”)

1. “substance” (*hypostatis*) = assurance; confidence; that which stands under something; the foundation; the assurance that what is looked for will surely come.
2. “things hoped for” = a rock solid assurance based on God’s divine revelation, God’s Word (Titus 2:13). “*True Bible faith is confident obedience to God’s Word in spite of circumstances and consequences.*”  
–Warren Wiersbe

**B. Faith is Conviction** (“*. . . the evidence of things not seen*” vs. 1). It is the proof, “evidence” (*elegchos*); an inner awareness of the reality, conviction.

1. Faith enables the believer to treat the future as the present and the invisible as the seen.
2. This is the inner conviction that what God has promised, He will perform (see Numbers 23:19).

**C. Faith is Communication** (“*For by it the elders received a good report*”).

1. For by **“it”**, that is, for by faith the elders received a good report. In the realm and exercise of faith, or by means of faith the elders received a good report.
2. **“obtained a good report”** (*martureo*) = to bear witness to; It literally means “for by faith the elders were borne witness to.” God bore witness to them. God gave testimony or witness to the faith of the Old Testament saints, so that they are witnesses to us (Hebrews 12:1). The witness of God was His divine approval upon their lives of faith.

**D. Faith is Comprehension** (“*Through faith we understand . . .*” Hebrews 11:3).

Faith enables believers to understand what God does.

1. **“understand”** (*noeo*) = to perceive with the reflective intelligence; It is the inward perception and apprehension of the visible creation as the work of God.
2. **“were framed (katartizo) by the word of God”** = to fit out or equip, so that a person or thing thus equipped might serve the purpose for which it was made.

We also saw in Hebrews 11 that faith is the dynamic of spiritual wisdom (vs. 3). It is the dynamic of spiritual worship, and it is the dynamic of spiritual wealth (Hebrews 11:6). My friend, faith should be the heart’s right response to the Word of God. When the eye is right it responds to light. When the ear is right it responds to sound. When the heart is right it responds to God in faith. Hebrews 11 describes what faith does and gives us many examples of people who pleased God because they lived by faith.

It is by faith that we please God in our worship. Faith is the dynamic of spiritual worship (Hebrews 11:6). The book of Hebrews teaches us that we have a **Superior Priesthood** (Hebrews 7-10) in the **Superior Person** of Jesus Christ (Hebrews 1-6), and therefore, we have a **Superior Principle** (Hebrews 11) by which to live. **That principle is faith!**

The writer of Hebrews exhorted the believers to go on to maturity (Hebrews 6:1) in their faith in Jesus Christ. They were being tempted to go back into Judaism.

**I. ABEL’S OFFERING DEMONSTRATED HIS FAITH (Hebrews 11:4; Genesis 4:4)**

**A. Why choose Abel as an example?**

1. The writer chooses Abel as the first example of what faith can do for the one who exercises it.
2. It was a matter of Abel’s personal salvation. In the case of the recipients of the letter to the Hebrews it was also a matter of salvation. If Abel’s salvation

was by means of faith that would mean that the first-century Jews who wanted to be saved would also have to exercise faith (Also notice Ephesians 2:8, 9).

**B. "by faith Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice".**

1. Why was Abel's sacrifice accepted and Cain's sacrifice rejected by God (Genesis 4:1-5)?
2. Abel offered by faith (Hebrews 11:4).
3. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17).
4. Abel did what God told him while Cain did not.
5. Cain offered the wrong thing, the wrong amount, at the wrong time, in the wrong place, in the wrong way, with the wrong attitude, and for the wrong purpose.

**II. NOTICE THE CONTRAST IN OFFERING**

**A. Abel offered in accordance with God's Word. Abel had listened carefully to God and did what God said.**

**B. Abel was a prophet and received revelation from God (Luke 11:49-51; Acts 10:43).**

**C. Abel's offering spoke of man's sinful condition (Romans 3:10, 23).**

**D. Abel's offering spoke of the necessity of blood and death.**

1. Abel's offering signified Jesus Christ's atonement (Hebrews 12:24).
2. Abel acknowledged that without death (Romans 6:23) and the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins (Hebrews 9:22).

**E. Abel's offering spoke of faith rather than works (Hebrews 11:4).**

1. Abel was saved because of his faith.
2. This is true of everyone who is a true Christian. We are saved by God's grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 4:3-7; Titus 3:5).

**F. Abel's offering spoke of repentance.**

1. Abel's offering demonstrated his repentance from sin and false religion and dead works.
2. Luke 13:3, 5

**G. Look at Cain's offering.**

1. Cain's offering was a religion composed of self works.
2. Cain's offering was a religion devised by his own self-will.

3. Cain's religion denied the necessity of a blood sacrifice.
4. Cain's religion thought that there are many ways to God.

### **III. NOTICE THE CONSEQUENCES OF OFFERINGS**

**A. One was accepted, the other rejected.**

**B. One was counted righteous, the other was unrighteous and wicked.**

**CONCLUSION:** It is the same way today, friend. You can only get the Heaven one way, through the shed blood of Jesus Christ! It is God's way or no way (John 14:6; Acts 4:12)! Have you been saved?! Christian friend, how is your faith level, low—medium—high? Do you remember what we said faith is? Faith is hearing and doing the Word of God (Romans 10:17; James 1:22)!