

LORD, INCREASE OUR FAITH

Sermon Five – “The Blessings of Noah’s Faith—

A Working Faith”

Text: Hebrews 11:7; Genesis 6:3-8:22

INTRODUCTION: Today, we are going to look at another man who lived by his faith. *“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.”* (Hebrews 11:7). Look at these points:

1. Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.
2. Noah was a just man and perfect (*blameless, upright*).
3. Noah walked with God.
4. This is a consistent biblical order.
 - a. First he found grace in God’s eyes.
 - b. Then he was just or declared righteous.
 - c. Thus he was complete in his generations.
 - d. Therefore he was able to walk with God in fellowship.

Noah was above all else a man of **great faith**. If we read Hebrews 11 carefully, we will find that it is only Noah whose description begins and ends with the phrase **“by faith”**. To our modern intellectuals and our post-Christian culture, Noah is viewed as just a mystical fantasy and the ark is viewed as just another fictional story for children’s coloring books.

However, Bible writers hold a different view: Isaiah 54:9 says, *“For this is as the **waters of Noah** unto me: for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee, nor rebuke thee.”* Luke 3:36 includes Noah in the official genealogy of Jesus Christ. The Apostle Peter mentions him as a strategic figure of history. I Peter 3:20 tells us, *“Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of **Noah**, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.”* II Peter 2:6 further shares with us, *“And spared not the old world, but saved **Noah** the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;”*

Most importantly, the Lord Jesus Christ validated and accepted as true the account of Noah and the ark. Matthew 24:37-39 tells us, *“But as the days of Noe were, so shall*

also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark. And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."

Almost 11 centuries after the creation of Adam and Eve, Lamech had a son whom he named Noah (Genesis 5:28-29).

1. Noah was Methuselah's grandson. Methuselah was a contemporary of Adam for 243 years and he knew firsthand the events of the Garden of Eden, creation, provision, and the fall.
2. Both Methuselah (Noah's grandfather), and Lamech (Noah's father), would have heard Enoch preach and saw the example of Enoch's noble life.

A realization that a powerful, holy, creator God had already set the date when He would judge the world crept over young Noah's soul. The more he thought about the coming judgment, the more he realized that he was sinful. Then he sought and found grace in the eyes of the Lord (Genesis 6:9).

1. The days of Noah were days of **social permissiveness**. People did their own thing. Lawlessness flourished. Immorality was an accepted lifestyle.
2. The days of Noah were days of **scientific progression**. Strides were made in science, engineering, and technology. Great cities were being built and the population was exploding.
3. The days of Noah were days of **spiritual poverty**. Genesis 6:3, 5 *"And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh:...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."*
4. Violence, wickedness, and demonic activities were so rampant that God decided to destroy the world with a Flood (Genesis 6:7).

Noah was a man of **great faith** even though he lived in a time of great wickedness. Notice four "**Blessings of Noah's Faith**".

I. NOAH'S FAITH BELIEVED GOD'S WARNING (Hebrews 11:7)

A. Noah was warned of God of something he had never seen.

1. It was a warning from the Lord. He had heard the Word of God.
2. Romans 10:17 *"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."*
3. Without a word from God you cannot have faith.

4. Faith is not a leap in the dark. It is a step into God's light of revelation from His Word.

B. Faith is not a "name it and claim it" concept.

1. You believe it and receive it because God has named it and you claim it.
2. God does the naming – we do the claiming (Hebrews 11:1; 13:5-6).

C. Noah had never seen a flood. He had never even seen rain (Genesis 2:5).

D. Noah had never seen a structure like God told him to build (the ark).

E. God spoke directly to Noah and he trusted in the Word of God.

F. "By faith, Noah being warned of things not seen as yet" (Genesis 2:5).

1. Hebrews 11:1 *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."*
2. **"warned"** (*chrematizo*) means to give advice to enquirers; the giving of a divine admonition or instruction to those who seek for an answer; it is a response to those consulting an oracle.

G. How does God communicate His Word to us? How can we have faith like Noah? (Romans 10:14-17)

1. **"word"** (*logos*) means the revealed will of God; the written revelation of God; expression of thought.
2. **"word"** (*rhema*) means an utterance; that which is spoken; a word from the Word of God; a word that God communicates personally to your heart; a personal word from God; a *rhema* from God.
3. Ephesians 6:17 *"And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word (rhema) of God:"* Here the reference is not to the whole Bible, but to the individual scripture which the Spirit brings to our remembrance for us in time of need (Matthew 4:4 with Deuteronomy 8:3).

H. It is the truth of the Word of God that generates faith in our hearts.

1. When God takes the truth of the Bible and makes that truth personal to you in a situation, that is, when you get a personal word from God, God uses His Word to speak directly to you.
2. That's when you will find faith growing in your heart and life.

J. You must hear from God to have faith. Noah heard from God.

1. Romans 10:14-17 *"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? . . ."*

2. Faith comes from hearing God, not just hearing about God.

II. NOAH'S FAITH ACHIEVED GOD'S WORK ("he prepared an ark")

A. Noah's faith resulted in a reverence for God.

1. Noah "moved with fear".
2. "**moved**" (*eulabeomai*) means "to be circumspect; to be apprehensive; to reverence."

B. Jeremiah 2:19 "Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee: know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and bitter, that thou hast forsaken the Lord thy God, and that my fear is not in thee, saith the Lord God of hosts."

1. The sign of a nation on its last leg is a nation that does not fear God.
2. Romans 3:18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

C. Noah's faith motivated him to work for God.

James 2:14, 17, 20 "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works; can faith save him? . . . Even so faith, if it hath not works is dead, being alone . . . But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?"

D. "Faith is obeying God in spite of the circumstances or consequences." (Warren W. Wiersbe)

E. Noah's faith led him to obey God (Genesis 6:22; 7:5, 9, 16).

F. Noah's faith caused him to work and achieve God's purpose for his life.

G. "He prepared an ark to the saving of his house"

1. "**prepared**" (*kataskeuazo*) means "to equip, to make ready."
2. For 120 years Noah built and equipped the ark.
3. He had to hew out giant timbers, saw them down to size, and construct the ark's massive frame.
4. He had to measure off the rooms, cages, and storage areas.
5. He had to boil huge vats of pitch for the inside and outside of the ark.

III. NOAH'S FAITH PERCEIVED GOD'S WRATH ON MAN'S WICKEDNESS (Genesis 6:5; 7-8; 11-13)

A. "Through faith we understand . . ." (Hebrews 11:3).

B. ". . . by the which he condemned the world . . ." (Hebrews 11:7d)

1. Noah condemned the world by his faith.
2. Noah by acting in faith when building the ark, announced the condemnation of the earth.

C. Noah lived in very wicked days.

Luke 17:26-30 *“And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.”*

D. How did their age compare with ours?

1. Preoccupation with physical appetites (Luke 17:26-30).
2. Rapid advances in technology (Genesis 4:22).
3. Uniform philosophies (Hebrews 11:7; II Peter 3:3-6).
4. Inordinate devotion to pleasure and comfort (Genesis 4:21).
5. No concern for God in either belief or conduct (II Peter 2:4; Jude 15).
6. Disregard for the sacredness of the marriage relationship.
7. Rejection of the inspired Word of God (II Peter 2:10).
8. Population explosion (Genesis 6:1-11).
9. Widespread violence (Genesis 6:12).
10. Corruption throughout society (Genesis 6:12).
11. Preoccupation with illicit sexual activity (Genesis 4:19; 6:2).
12. Widespread words and thoughts of blasphemy (Jude 15).
13. Organized satanic activity (Genesis 6:1-40).
14. Promotion of systems and movements of abnormal depravity (Genesis 6:5, 12).
15. Materialistic attitudes and interests (Luke 17:28).

E. Jesus linked the day of Noe and the days of Lot. This will be the condition of the world before the return of the Lord.

F. Noah was a preacher of righteousness that preached judgment was coming for 120 years (II Peter 2:5).

G. If there had been a newspaper in Noah’s day, he would have made front page news.

1. Lunatic Builds Boat!

2. Noah the Nut says it's Going to Rain!

IV. NOAH'S FAITH RECEIVED GOD'S WEALTH (Genesis 6:9)

- A. The wealth that Noah's faith received was God's righteousness.
- B. Noah was saved by God's grace (Genesis 6:8).
- C. Noah got his family into the Ark of Safety.

CONCLUSION: Noah's faith condemned the world of their wickedness. Noah lived by faith. By faith **Noah Believed God's Warning**. By faith **Noah Achieved God's Work**. By faith **Noah Perceived God's Wrath**. By faith **Noah Received God's Wealth**. Are you saved and serving God? Is all your family saved and serving God?