

Faith In Action

(Part 1)

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.” (Hebrews 11:6)

Hebrews 11:1 Tells the following: ***“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”*** In true faith there is complete trust and full hope and assurance on what we are waiting for. In sincere faith there is confidence in what had been said and promised by God even if we cannot see that thing in our eyes or it is incompatible to our senses. ***“This is what the ancients were commended for.” (Hebrews 11:2)*** This is the criteria that the Lord is pleased with and the criteria that He used to commend His people. Those who have full confidence in God, they will live their lives obediently knowing that their labour to live a life to please God is not in vain. Therefore on such people God put His trust and has confidence on them.

“By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.” (Hebrews 11:3) When we know these facts and put it into practice knowing that God, the invisible, had created all things and from Him come all the things that are in the world then we can have the sincere faith and live our lives to please God. Knowing these truths and put them into practice will protect us from the world temptation. We will not be enticed by worldly figure or people fame and power, because we would know that God is behind all things and from Him will come all what we need. Therefore we will build a healthy personal relationship with Him, knowing clearly that the outcome of our lives depend on how we faithfully maintain, keep, cherish and honour this relationship with God.

“By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead.” (Hebrews 11:4) Abel knew God in the right way and he honour and cherish that relationship. Abel he recognized clearly that all what he had was from God and therefore he did not fail to give God the best of the fat portion of his flock. Abel since he trusted in God he had the humble and the innocent heart who trust in the Lord His God. Abel had a stable personality who does not need to fear or live in anxiety or doubt because he had a true faith and confident in the Lord that He is faithful and He will reward him for all his labour and hard work.

In contrary to Abel is his brother Cain who had a personality who does not trust God or had confidence in the Lord. For Cain worshipping God is a ritual thing. When he offered his sacrifice he did not offer it to honour God but just for the sake of the procedure. His jealousy and his anger against His brother were due to his lack of faith and confidence in the Lord. He was shaken when he saw somebody better than him. That led him to trust only himself, and being founding himself inadequate and less than his brother he found himself in front of only one way to win, and that way is to kill Abel and take him away from the scene. But that did not help him in his struggle because God who exist behind all things vindicate Abel because his faith commended him as righteous, for God saw his sacrifice as a reflection of the true and sincere faith that He had toward God.

“By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death: “He could not be found, because God had taken him away.” For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God.” (Hebrews 11:5) Enoch did not experience death, for he had been taken from this life. Enoch lived a life that pleases God. The Word of God tells us that Enoch walked with God; there is a friendship and intimacy with God. He agreed with God and shown faithfulness and holiness toward that relationship. You may say that is not a practical thing and it had happened only in the bible that a man all of a sudden disappeared because God took him away. But be assured that the same thing will be happening when Jesus will come back to take us with Him to heaven. When He will come we will be taken from this world. Suddenly we will disappear from the face of the earth and we will be taken by Jesus to be with Him forever as had happened with Enoch. And you will have the same experience as Enoch if you make your mind today to live a life that pleases the Lord. Walk with the Lord, and move away from all evildoers and their wrong ways of life. Don’t imitate them or have a partnership with them. Do not do what they do so you will not suffer the harm they will suffer and the peril end that they will have. ***Instead walk with God and have a friendship with Jesus, obey His commands so you will find yourself with the Lord when He will come to take us.***

“By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.” (Hebrews 11:7) God warned Noah about the end of the widespread evil that was so prevalent at the time of Noah. God was grieving and unhappy even to the point that He was regretting that He created man. Man had gone so wicked and lived a filthy life far away from God. The same as it is going now all around the world, the people becoming wilder and in enmity toward God. The Lord warned Noah that He is about to send a flood to finish all the wicked practices that is on earth, but to preserve the righteous and those who obeyed God. Noah when he received God’s warning acted in holy fear and that fear promoted him to take action, and this what faith generates and work in our lives. Holy fear is to fear God and to revere Him. In holy fear God would become all in all, over all the aspects of life and over mans’ plans, desires and over every decision in his life. Noah faith in God and his holy fear worked out for him to listen to God’s instruction and obey His commands to build the ark of God to save himself and his family. The ark was a long term life project that Noah invested all his life and all what he had to achieve this project. He was clear minded and was not distracted by all the temptations in the world, but he put his focus on God and what the Lord instructed him to do and perform. The entire world died by the flood except Noah and his family, therefore he became ***heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.***

My dear and beloved: “And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.” Traditional and ritual practices cannot replace the sincere faith that the Lord wanted us to live and have. Such faith will be translated into truthful deeds, gracious christian character and living in an obedient life unto God as we agree to pray.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord I repent from my sins _____. I commit myself into your hand, O Lord build me up and guide me and nurture me to have a true and genuine faith in order for me to live a life pleasant to you. This all I ask and pray in Jesus name, Amen.