

# Faith Works

## Part 2

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May 13, 2018

**Review** - Faith Works, it produces and it needs to be worked/exercised!

➤ Anchor Verse - Hebrews 11

### Defined

- a) Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
- b) **substance hoped for**- faith is the **foundational, concrete, assurance** that what you **hope for will happen**... substance and hope must be rooted in the word, ways and works of God!
  - a. Fact - every great act of faith displays a confident assurance that what is being hoped for will happen!
- c) **evidence of not seen**- faith is the proof, conviction that the **unseen** and **not yet** will become the **seen** and **enjoyed**!
  - a. Fact - every great act of faith displays a conviction that the currently unseen will become seen!

**Today** - Hall of Faith, those whose faith stands as an example for us, Abel and Enoch...

**Abel** - second son Adam and Eve - Hebrews 11:4 - By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

- a) Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice than Cain - why?
- b) First - nothing mentioned of Abel from Genesis 4- Matthew 23:35, passing mention of his righteousness by Jesus.
- c) Hebrews 11:4, Hebrews 12:24 - “blood of Jesus is better than blood Abel offered”

**Question** - Why more excellent sacrifice than Cain's? Deep and symbolic answer...

- a) You must go back to what God did for Adam and Eve after their sin...
- b) Genesis 3:21 - Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

**Application** - God took the innocent life of an animal, shed its blood, its skin covered the sinful nakedness of Adam and Eve - **foreshadows Jesus** - Lamb of God being slain for the sins of mankind! **It represents what God did for us, not us for ourselves!**

- a) Genesis 4:3-5 - *And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.*

**Application** - by offering an animal sacrifice - Abel followed God's prescribed order of sacrifice - the innocent animal for the guilty person!

**Fact** - Abel had faith that approaching God, God's way, would make him righteous before God, and it did!

**Fact** - Cain had faith that approaching God **however he chose**, bringing fruit of the ground, would make him righteous with God! **No, no, no!**

**Notice** – **1 John 3:11-12** - *For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.*

**Point** - **Cain and Abel represent 2 groups of society...**

- a) Those who have faith in God's prescribed way to be righteous before Him - **Jesus**, the innocent slain for the guilty, righteousness that comes by God's grace!
- b) Those who have faith in their own way to be righteous before God - their own evil works for their own wicked ways, "righteousness" that comes from self-effort.

**Question** - Which are you? It's your decision...

**Final interesting thoughts** - Abel being dead still speaks!

- a) even death can't silence a life lived by faith
- b) life of faith outlives life of a body
- c) live a life of faith- leave a legacy that speaks!

**Abel's life of faith teaches us** - **A life of faith in God is a life of righteousness before God, a life of faith in God leaves a legacy that speaks for God! Let's live lives of faith!**

**Enoch** - Hebrews 11:5 - *By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "AND WAS NOT FOUND, BECAUSE GOD HAD TAKEN HIM"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.*

**Like Abel** - rarely mentioned apart from a few mentions in random genealogies...

**Here –**

- a) by faith he was taken so that he didn't see death - what???
- b) he pleased God

**Dig a little deeper –**

- a) Genesis 5:21-24 - *Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah. After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters. So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.*

**Fact** - Enoch walked with God and pleased God until God said, come home, no dying!

**Something more about Enoch –**

- a) Jude 1:14-15 - *Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."*

**Wow** - Enoch prophesied, foretold, the Lord's return, with His saints, to judge the ungodly and their ungodly ways. (Book of Enoch 1:9, ancient Jewish book not included in the bible).

**Amazing** - how Paul describes the return of Jesus, and the rapture of the church, is very similar to Enoch's description of the Lord's return and his own "taking up".

- a) 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 - *But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.*

**Application** - Paul says a day is coming when Jesus returns with His saints and those believers who are alive at that time will be “caught up” harpadzo, raptus, raptured from earth and we will be with the Lord forever!

- a) The “taking up” that Enoch personally experienced foreshadows the “catching up” of the church in the last days.

**Enoch’s life of faith teaches us** - By faith we need to walk with the Lord, proclaim the Lord’s return, and please the Lord. Then, we won’t see death, (John 11:26). Let’s live lives of faith!

**Fact** - A life of faith is a life that pleases God, a life of faith is a life rewarded by God, let’s live lives of faith!

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## Discussion Questions

1. Which “group of society” do you find yourself in - those who have faith in **God’s** prescribed way to be righteous before Him or those who have faith in their **own** way to be righteous before God?
2. In what ways, or by what methods, do you find yourself trying to be righteous before God? (This doesn’t have to be some big issue like salvation, but rather, for example, trying to *prove* your love for God through works, etc.)
3. What does it look like to you to live a life of faith that pleases God?
4. What adjustments need to be made in your life to align with your vision from #3?