

# Faith Works

## Part 3

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

- *Anchor Verse in Hebrews 11*
- **Hebrews 11:1**  
Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

### Defined

- **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!
- **evidence of not seen** — faith is the proof, conviction that the **unseen** and **not yet** will become the **seen** and **enjoyed**!

### Today — Hall of Faith, those whose faith stands as an example for us — Noah

- **Hebrews 11:7**  
By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

### Noah received Divine warning of things unseen...

- **Warning**
- **Genesis 6:13, 17**  
And God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth. And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die.”
- **Things unseen** —maybe rain, the firmament watered earth, for sure the flood...

**Either way**— Noah believed what God told him, previously unseen, would happen! Faith is the evidence of things not seen!

### Today — focus on three aspects of Noah’s spiritual life

### Noah Heard God

- **too important not to address, all in Hebrews 11 hear God — then believe!**
- **John 10:27**  
My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

**QUESTION** — How does God speak to us? How can we hear God?

## 1. SCRIPTURES

- **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- MUST LINE UP!
- God is NEVER going to say something to you that will contradict His Word

## 2. SAINTS

- He speaks through others in the body of Christ — we are in relationship with each other
- **Acts 21:3-4**  
When we had sighted Cyprus, we passed it on the left, sailed to Syria, and landed at Tyre; for there the ship was to unload her cargo. And finding disciples, we stayed there seven days. They told Paul through the Spirit not to go up to Jerusalem.
- **Luke 2:19** — ponder in our hearts
- **1 Thessalonians 5:19-21** — don't quench the Holy Spirit, don't despise inspired words, test all things, hold fast to that which is from God

## 3. CIRCUMSTANCES

- **1 Corinthians 16:9**  
For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

## 4. SUPERNATURAL SIGNS

- **Job 33:14-16**  
For God may speak in one way, or in another, yet man does not perceive it. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls upon men, while slumbering on their beds, then He opens the ears of men, and seals their instruction.
- rainbows, burning bushes, dreams, visions, donkeys, stars — supernatural!

**Application** — weigh out what you're hearing, make an informed decision, knowing faith will be required. Noah heard God, it was the basis of his faith in God!

**Faith involves Risk: Vision + Passion + Discipline = Risk**

## Noah Feared God

- after initial response of faith, Noah moved with fear!
- fear defined — *Holding God in such awe and respect that you choose to hate evil and depart from it.*
- typically we think of fearing God, and **not doing wrong** —
  - *we must add to that, fearing God in order to do right*
  - not just sins of commission—but omission as well.
- Noah loved and respected God too much to NOT DO what God had asked.
- Noah moved with godly fear — **fear and faith combined—produce miraculous results!**

## Noah Prepared for God

- faith works — doesn't just sit around!
- **James 2:17-18**  
Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.
- faith painted doorposts with the blood of lambs, faith moved toward Red Sea, faith put feet of priests in Jordan, faith circled Jericho, faith hid the spies, faith attacked Goliath, faith stretched a withered hand, faith carried and dropped a friend through the roof...
- moment by moment, day by day, month by month, year by year, decades... preparing, working, building — enduring mocking, scorning, ridicule — Noah patiently prepared for the unseen to appear!
- **Hebrews 6:12**  
... do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

**FACT** — Noah's patience kept him working by faith!

## Without question...

- ... multiple times in your life...
- God is going to speak to you — some way...
- You need to hear Him — have an ear to hear
- You need to fear Him — it's the beginning of wisdom
- You need to prepare for Him — engage
- Validation comes *after* we hear, fear and prepare!

## Noah's story has an end-times component to it...

- **Matthew 24:36-39**  
"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be."
- eating, drinking, marrying... clueless!
- **Genesis 6** — wickedness was great, thoughts and intents of heart was only evil continually, corrupt, filled with violence... it's why God sent flood, it's why God is sending Jesus!
- **Noah found grace** — walked with God, just, perfect, righteous, preacher of righteousness — a godly person living in godless society- its our calling!

**FACT** — when Jesus returns from heaven,  
like the previously unseen rain that fell from heaven,  
there will be two groups of people on the earth...

- **Those Who Walk with God**
  - just, righteous, proclaiming righteousness, those who hear, believe, fear, prepare for His coming.
- **Those Who Are Clueless**
  - hardened, unbelieving, business as usual, evil, wicked, corrupt, violent

**Question — Which one will you be?**

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## **Discussion Questions**

1. What are the various ways God has spoken to you?
2. How do you recognize that it is His voice and not your own thoughts?
3. What does active faith require?
4. Has your faith ever run out of patience? What happened?
5. How do you prepare for faith?