

Faith Works

Part 7

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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

- **Faith is the 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 — Believing for Faith Explosion in our Lives!

A look into the life of Moses —

- We start with **his parents**
- **Hebrews 11:23**
By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command.
- **parents unnamed** here, first five books of Exodus, until Exodus 6:20 — Amram/Yachobed
- **“ordinary folks”** — nothing noteworthy about pedigree, spiritual experiences, God-given promises... not Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph.

FACT

**God specializes in taking the faith of ordinary folks
and then He does the extraordinary through them!**

- **1 Corinthians 1:26-29**
For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence.
- foolish, weak, base, despised things, things which are not — so no flesh glories in His presence.

Faith Risks and Releases

even the beautiful, without fear...

- **risk** hiding for three months, after Pharaoh's decree to drown male babies, Exodus 1:22
- **releases** to God by placing at river's edge, vulnerable to danger and death. Sobek, Egyptian god of Nile was the Crocodile, lived in Nile, canals and pools...YIKES!
- Pharaoh's own daughter finds, recognizes, compassion, returns to mother and pays wages!

Point — Faith works when it risks, when its **released** — then God **rescues, returns, and rewards!** THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE AND MY OWN LIFE! **YOURS?**

Irony — Pharaoh commands male babies drown, Moses' mom places Moses in water, God rescues Moses by Pharaoh's own daughter — 80 years later — God drowns Pharaoh in Red Sea!

Interesting — God has a way of dealing with your enemies when you operate in faith, not flesh!

Faith Refuses and Forsakes Worldliness

at 40, Moses rejects all pomp, prestige and pleasure of being Egypt's prince

- **Hebrews 11:24-27**
By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.

Chooses to suffer affliction over passing pleasure of sin

- **1 Peter 4:1-2**
Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

Application — *we have no permission to participate in passing pleasure of sin, every exhortation to refuse, forsake and even suffer for our rejection of it... Peter goes on to say you've spent enough time in sin, when you reject it, people think its strange and speak evil of you! People speak evil of you for rejecting evil — that's the world we live in.*

Esteems reproach of Christ as greater riches than treasures of Egypt

- **Matthew 5:10-12**
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
- **Acts 5:41**
(after they were beaten)... they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.

Dr. Michael Brown, in spite of countless death threats says, “What a day to be alive!”

Endures suffering and reproach by seeing Him who is invisible

- **Psalm 16:8**

I have set the LORD always before me; Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.

FACT

By faith, Moses, like Abraham before him, looked to eternal reward over worldly pleasure!

It kept him from being moved away from the will of God — eternal perspective!

Faith Repeatedly Reveres God

regardless of past favor or success...

- **Hebrews 11:28**

By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them.

- burning bush, call of God, rod/snake, hand/leprosy, nine plagues released at his command...
- 10th plague — Moses has no sense of “I’m the man,” “Y’all obey Passover, blood doorposts etc., while I’ll just chill till its time to leave” NO!
- *whereas in 2 Samuel 11:1 — David stayed home during war! — got slack — started sinning*
- Moses says, “By faith I’m keeping Passover lest God kill my firstborn!” Repeatedly revering!

WARNING — *how many **after their calling**, favor, success, blessing etc., **quit revering**, **start slacking**, get sloppy, **begin sinning** — then **fall publicly**!*

Know the Difference Between God-initiated Faith and Self-willed Presumption

- **Hebrews 11:29**

By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned.

- Israel passed through the Red Sea by God-initiated faith — they were believing and doing what God told them to do — their faith was in the revealed will of God for them!
- Egypt tried to pass through by self-willed presumption, “If the Israelites can do it, we can to.”

LISTEN — *must be so careful that just because you **think** you can, or that you **can** do something, that it is the will of God — that you don’t have self-willed presumptuous faith — you may drown!*

QUESTION — How do I know if God is speaking and leading, if I should have faith for something?

ANSWER — Week 3 — *Scriptures, Circumstances, Signs, Saints* — *I've lived my life this way, it works. It has saved me from self-willed presumptuous faith, and kept me in God-initiated faith!*

Discussion Questions

1. By faith, do you have something to risk and release — so God can rescue, return, and reward?
 2. By faith, do you have worldliness to refuse, forsake and reject — even if it causes you to suffer?
 3. By faith, do you need to replace sloppy, sinful living with reverence and obedience — leading to your deliverance?
 4. By faith, do you need to replace self-willed presumption — for God-initiated faith?
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