

Hebrews 11:1-7; "The Hall of Faith" March 23, 2025

- I. Welcome & Review
 - A. Good morning! Ohayougozaimasu! Welcome to Calvary Chapel Iwakuni.
 1. *Welcome any new faces and those streaming online.* Deterrence
 - B. Before we continue any further, let's go ahead and dismiss our elementary aged children to their Sunday School classrooms.
 1. (2nd Service; Remember to dismiss the Bible English class.)
 - C. This morning, we come to the beginning of one of the more prominent chapters of the book of Hebrews and really the entire Bible.
 1. There are certain chapters of the Bible that I think are given special significance and are well known and treasured by many Bible lovers and readers.
 - a. There's Psalm 119. The longest chapter in the Bible that is completely dedicated to the topic of the Word of God. How rich it is, how powerful it is, how sure and stable and beneficial it is to us. How we can build our lives upon it, and it can lead and guide us.
 - b. There's 1 Corinthians 13; the "love" chapter. It speaks about the love of God and how important love is in our walk with the Lord. How we can do all sorts of other things, but if we don't have love, then we are nothing more than a clanging cymbal.
 - c. Genesis chapter 1 where it all begins; how in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1 lays out an overview of the 6 days of creation and how God spoke the universe and all that is within it into existence.
 - d. There's Psalm 23 which teaches us about the Good Shepherd; how He leads us beside still waters and restores our soul; how though we walk through the valley of the shadow death we will fear no evil, for He is with us and His rod and staff they comfort us.
 - e. And what about Isaiah 53 and the suffering servant. Where Isaiah prophesies of the crucifixion of Christ which such clarity and detail that you would think his writings came straight out of one of the gospel accounts in the NT.
 2. This morning, we come to a very significant chapter, a chapter that is all about faith and highlights for us some of our heroes of the faith. This chapter, Hebrews 11, has been given the moniker "The Hall of Faith".
 - a. Many sports have what they call a "Hall of Fame"; a place where people who have made significant contributions to the legacy of their respective sports and have excelled as ambassadors and competitors within their sport are celebrated and honored.
 - i. Both the United States and Japan have various hall of fames for people to visit that are like museums recognizing those who have paved the way for the continued success of each sport.

- ii. In the US, there is the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY and the National Football Hall of Fame in Canton, OH.
 - iii. In Japan, they too have a Baseball Hall of Fame and a Japan Football Hall of Fame, but that is for what most Americans refer to as soccer, not American football.
 - b. Hebrews chapter 11 is referred to as the "Hall of Faith" because much like many of the halls of fame which look to celebrate and honor those from the past who have excelled and paved a way for future generations to follow in their footsteps, so too Hebrews chapter 11, lists out a number of heroes of our faith who have excelled in faith and paved a way for a great many of generations to follow after them.
 - c. Over the next few weeks we will be looking back upon the lives of people who lived their lives unto the Lord and were great examples of what it means to live by faith.
 - d. This chapter is in no way meant to be an exclusive list or an all-encompassing list. Certainly, there have been a great many of people who have gone before us and excelled in faith and room would not permit the author of Hebrews to write of them all.
 - e. But we do have here is a fun and encouraging list of people that we can look to and learn from as they lived their lives by faith.
- D. This morning, our text is going to be Hebrews chapter 11 verses 1-7. And the Title of our message is going to be "The Hall of Faith".
 1. Hopefully you all have a Bible with you this morning, if you do not, feel free to reach down and borrow one of the Bibles underneath some of the chairs around you.
 2. Once you are there in Hebrews chapter 11, I'd like to invite you to rise to your feet in honor of God and His Word.
 3. The author of Hebrews begins his review of some of the heroes of our faith with the following in chapter 11 vs. 1... (R & P)

II. Intro

- A. Last week, as we closed out chapter 10, the author quoted from Habakkuk as a way to encourage his audience to persevere in the faith; to endure in the faith. In verse 38 of chapter 10 the author quoted Habakkuk and how "the just shall live by faith". (**Heb. 10:38a**)
 1. The word "just" is a word that is more commonly translated as "righteous". It speaks of people who have been deemed to have a right standing before the Lord.
 2. None of us are righteous on our own, none of us conform to God's perfect and holy standard on our own.
 - a. The Bible is quite clear on that manner. Romans 3:10 quotes from various portions of the Bible like Psalm 14, and Psalm 53, and

Ecclesiastes 7 that pretty much all say the same thing, that “there is none righteous, no, not one.” (Rom. 3:10)

3. But, because the grace of God has been poured out upon us, we have the opportunity to become right with God, we have the opportunity to be deemed just and righteous. And the only way that can happen is through faith.
4. We become right with God by grace through faith. And we continue to live in a state of righteousness based upon our continued faith in God.
5. Our right standing before the Lord is entered into through faith and it is continued through faith. That is why Habakkuk states “the just shall live by faith”. It’s a continued process of actively living our lives in accordance with our faith.
6. And here in chapter 11, as if to spur his audience on in their continued faith, he takes some time to look back upon some of the greats who have gone before them; men and women of faith who continued to live by faith and demonstrated their faith in the lives they lived.

B. For those of you who like to take notes and/or outline our text, we’re going to divide this morning’s portion of Scripture into two main sections.

1. In verses 1-3 we’re going to highlight how faith is described by the author.
2. And then, in verses 4-7 we’re going to note how faith was demonstrated by some of the heroes of the faith.
3. As we go through the text, we’ll look to glean some important truths that we can apply to our own lives as well, as we look to follow in the footsteps of these heroes of the faith.

C. Let’s begin by taking a look at our first section dealing with “**Faith Described**” in verses 1-3.

III. Hebrews 11:1-3; Faith Described

A. Here in the opening of the chapter dealing with faith, the author takes the first few verses to describe for us what faith is.

1. Now, what we have here in verse 1 is not necessarily a definition of faith, but as I mentioned already, it is a description of faith. It describes faith and some of the things that are involved in faith.
2. A simple definition of faith would be “complete trust or confidence in someone or something”.
 - a. From that simple definition we could say that people exercise faith throughout each and every day of their life.
 - b. If faith simply meant complete trust in something, we could apply it to so many different things. When you went to bed last night you did so with complete trust that your lungs would keep working, your heart would keep beating, even while you zonked out.

- c. Maybe some of you exercised faith in your phone or alarm to wake you up this morning; expecting with complete confidence that it would make some sort of sound at the exact time you set it for.
- d. If you drove to church this morning, you exercised faith as you put yourself behind the steering wheel of a car and accelerated it to perhaps 50 km/hr with the complete trust and confidence that when you put your foot on the brake the car would slow down.
- e. When you came in this morning to church, none of you inspected the chair you sat down in and wondered whether or not it would support you; no you had every confidence that as you sat down that the chair would hold you and bear the full of your weight.
- f. If we were talking about faith in that basic understanding, then we’d all be heroes of faith. We live by faith all day long.

3. But when we talk about Biblical faith and our faith in God, we understand that it involves much more than a complete trust or confidence in something or someone.
4. Here in this section, I’d like to identify four different things that are involved in the kind of faith that the Bible speaks of, the kind of faith that we are to live by.

B. The first thing that we note about Biblical faith is that it involves **substance**.

1. Faith is the substance of things hoped for. The word “substance” is the word “hupostasis”. It’s a compound word; “hupo” meaning “under” and “stasis” meaning “to stand”. Putting them together we understand that this substance speaks of something that stands under something else.
 - a. It speaks of something which underlies another thing, it is the basis of something. In classical Greek this word was used to refer to the foundation upon which something was built.
 - b. So faith is the foundation, the support, or basis of things hoped for.
2. When the Bible speaks about “hope”, we must understand that it is not used in the same manner in which we use the word “hope” today in our modern English.
 - a. When we use the word “hope” in modern English we use it to refer to something that we wish for, or something we would like to happen, but have absolutely no assurance or confidence that it will actually happen.
 - b. I can “hope” it stops raining, but I have absolutely no control over whether or not that actually happens, and I have no confidence that it will stop raining just because I hope for it.
 - c. But when the Bible uses the word “hope” it involves a certain level of expectation. It involves a desire for some good to happen with a certain expectation of obtaining it.
 - d. There is a confidence that comes with the Biblical use of the word “hope”. It involves something you may not have now, but you have a certain expectation that it will come to pass in time.

3. Of course, when we are talking about these things hoped for, we are talking about the things that God has spoken to us; His word and His promises.
 - a. We have a certain expectation that God will fulfill all of His promises to us. We have faith in God and His Word, so much so that we build our lives upon these promises.
 - b. Our faith in God and His Word is the foundation for all the things we hope for. We trust that if God said it, it will come to pass.
 - c. For all the promises of God are in Him “yes” and in Him “amen”, according to 2 Corinthians 1:20. **(2 Co. 1:20a)**
 - d. If God said it, it will come to pass. Our faith in God allows us to have a complete confidence in God and His promises to us.
- C. And this brings me to another element of our faith. Our faith not only involves substance, but it also involves **evidence**.
 1. Again, when we talk about evidence from a worldly perspective it is different from when we talk about evidence as it pertains to faith.
 2. When speaking of evidence in the physical world, we usually are talking about things that are either seen or heard.
 - a. If you were to be summoned for jury duty and had to sit in a court setting. You may be part of a trial where evidence is submitted for review and consideration.
 - b. Evidence may come from the testimony of an eyewitness, or perhaps an expert in a certain field. Their testimony is heard and it is submitted as evidence.
 - c. Or evidence is seen. A lawyer may submit as evidence a photograph or video that is used to support their case, DNA evidence, or toxicology reports, or bank statements, or any number of possible physical evidences.
 - d. These are all things that can either be seen or heard. But that isn't what we are talking about when we talk about evidence of faith.
 3. For the end of verse 1 says that faith is the evidence of things not seen. Evidence in the spiritual world of faith doesn't involve things we see with our own eyes, but things that are unseen.
 - a. Faith, in and of itself, cannot be seen. Just like wind cannot be seen. We see the effects of wind, we see the wind move trees and we hear it blow through our neighborhoods, but we don't see it.
 - b. In like manner, our faith isn't necessarily something that is seen, but something that can be witnessed; it is seen in the lives that we live.
 - c. James writes in his epistle, “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.” **(James 2:18)**
- d. So faith is the evidence, the proof of things not seen. Faith, though not tangible and physical, can be seen and heard through the lives that we live; through the works that we do; through our actions.
4. We live our lives for the Lord, by faith, even though we may not see all of God's promises fulfilled in our lives here on earth, we trust that one day all His promises will come to pass and our lives are meant to serve as evidence of that fact.
- D. Continuing we see that faith also involves **the approval of God**. Verse 2 reads, “For by it [speaking of faith] the elders obtained a good testimony.”
 1. The idea behind obtaining a good testimony carries the sense of God testifying of His approval.
 2. It is like God's firsthand authentication. The “elders” refers here to the heroes of faith that are listed out later on in this chapter; the likes of Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, and many more.
 3. All of these people received God's stamp of authentication, His stamp of approval upon their lives. God bore witness to their faith. And approved of them.
 4. In life, it is easy to get caught up in the idea of seeking the approval of man. We want to be acknowledged for our efforts, we want to be liked, we want to be respected. And so, we can have a tendency to try and seek after the approval of man.
 5. But these people were different. They weren't concerned with the approval of men, but the approval of God.
 6. The apostle Paul is one who at one time sought after the approval and applause of men. He had great confidence in his flesh and boasted how he was “circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But [he writes] what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith.” **(Phil. 3:5-9)**
 7. Paul sought the applause of men at one time, he used to boast of his pedigree, but after coming to faith in Christ, he counted all those things rubbish. He no longer cared about the applause and recognition of man, but sought wholeheartedly after the applause and approval of God through faith.
 8. This is what God desires of us all. That we would live by faith and in so doing, bring pleasure to the Lord.
- E. Back to our text. Take a look at verse 3 where we note one more thing that is involved in this description of faith. It reads, “By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are

seen were not made of things which are visible.” Faith involves **understanding**, an understanding of the power of God’s Word.

1. The author looks back to creation itself. We read of the creation of the heavens and the earth back in Genesis chapter 1. And we know that from Genesis chapter 1 God spoke the world into existence.
2. The worlds as we know them, which includes both the physical and spiritual realms of this world, were framed, were created, or formed your translation may read by the word of God.
 - a. This is referring to the spoken word of God.
3. If we look back in review of the days of creation we see the power of God’s spoken word.
 - a. We know that on day 1 God spoke, “Let there be light; and there was light” (**Gen. 1:3**)
 - b. On day 2 God said, “Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters” And that is exactly what happened. (**Gen. 1:6**)
 - c. On day 3 God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear”; and it was so (**Gen. 1:9**).
 - d. He continued saying, “Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth” and it was so.” (**Gen. 1:11**)
 - e. And on and on it went through day 4, and day 5, and day 6. Whatever God spoke that is what happened. That is the power of God’s Word.
4. The things which are seen in this world, were not made of things which are visible, but God spoke them into existence. He created something out of nothing, all through the power of His spoken Word.
5. And understanding the power of God’s Word is critically important to our faith. If God is so powerful that His spoken word can speak worlds and universes into existence, don’t you think He is powerful enough to make good on the promises He has given us?
 - a. Of course He is. Since He and His word are so powerful, then the only reasonable response is to place our complete hope and trust and faith in God’s Word. We can trust God’s Word; it is powerful and it accomplishes that for which it is sent forth.
 - b. Isaiah 55:10 & 11 states, “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, So shall My Word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.” (**Isa. 55:10-11**)

- F. Putting all this together we see that this description of faith involves substance, it involves evidence, it involves the approval of God, and it involves understanding.
 1. Remember that the author is writing to encourage people to endure in the faith, to persevere, to not give up. He wants them to continue in the faith, to show themselves righteous and just by continuing to live by faith. (**Review**)
 2. And so, he writes this description of faith as a way to stir them up in their faith. Our faith is not based upon some wishful thinking. It has substance to it, it is the foundation upon which we build our lives. It is made evident through the lives we live, and it is how we are approved of by God. And we understand that our faith is in the power of the Almighty God and His spoken Word.
 3. If God said it, it will come to pass. Of this we can be certain of. Nothing can stop God from fulfilling His Word and His promises to us.
- G. Well, let’s turn to our second and final section of our text. The first section dealt with faith described, this next section deals with **faith demonstrated**. Read with me verses 4-7.

IV. Hebrews 11:4-7; Faith Demonstrated

- A. Here in these verses, and really throughout the rest of the entire chapter, the author looks to different people who demonstrated the kind of faith that the author just described in verses 1-3.
 1. These people trusted God and His word, they had a confidence in God and built their lives upon God and His Word to them. These people were men and women of faith. People who were given God’s stamp of approval.
 2. And as we go through this last section of our text, I want to note the different ways in which these individuals demonstrated their faith in the Lord, beginning with Abel in verse 4.
- B. Verse 4 opens up stating, “By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous,”
 1. We all should know the account of Cain and his brother Abel. Cain and Abel were the first-born sons of the very first people created by God; Adam and Eve. Cain was the elder, he was the first born and Abel was the younger brother, the second born.
 2. And it came to pass one day that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord, which makes sense because we are told that he was a tiller of the ground; he was a farmer.
 3. And Abel too brought an offering before the Lord, his offering was that of the firstborn of his flocks and of their fat, which again makes sense for we are told that Abel was a keeper of sheep; he was a shepherd.
 4. And we are told in Genesis 4 that the Lord respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering. (**Gen. 4:4b-5a**)

5. Both made an offering before the Lord, but only one of the offerings was accepted; only one person, Abel, was approved of by the Lord.
 - a. Now the interesting thing is that Genesis really doesn't give us any sort of commentary upon why Abel was accepted and why Cain and his offering were rejected.
 - b. Many have speculated through the years as to why Abel and his offering were accepted while Cain and his offering were rejected.
 - i. Some try to say that it had to do with the offering itself. Abel's offering of the firstborn of his flock was a greater offering than Cain's offering of the fruit of his land.
 - ii. Some try to say that basically only meat offerings were acceptable to the Lord and that things like fruits and vegetables are inferior. Which, most of us may agree with. I mean would you rather have a big juicy steak for lunch, or a leafy green salad?
 - iii. Others try to say that the offering of the flock was a better sacrifice because it better points to Jesus Christ and His blood sacrifice. They'll even look to previous verses here in Hebrews that speak of how Jesus and His offering are a better sacrifice.
 - iv. Some try to point to the fact that since Cain's offering came from the ground it was cursed. Because in the previous chapter, chapter 3, after the fall of Adam and Eve the Lord said, "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life". (**Gen. 3:17b**).
 - v. Some take that verse and apply it to Cain's offering suggesting that Cain offered to God a cursed offering because it came from the cursed ground.
 - vi. But none of these theories really hold much water because they are all based upon the offering itself; that meat is better or best, and that the fruit of the land is inferior.
 - vii. Later on in the Bible, when God prescribed the various ways in which people could bring their offerings to Him, He accepted such things as the grain offering, the fellowship offering, and the offering of the first fruits. God not only welcomed these kinds of offerings, but He instructed the children of Israel to bring these specific kinds of offerings to Him.
 - c. So, it doesn't seem to make sense that it was merely the fact that Abel brought meat while Cain brought produce. Something else is in play here. And we see here in Hebrews what really was going on.
6. By faith, Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice. What was it that distinguished Abel's offering from Cain's. It was brought by faith. The implication is that Cain did not bring his offering by faith.
 - a. In fact, if you look back at the account in Genesis, we are given a sense of this in God's communication with Cain after the fact.
 - b. Cain was upset with God for not accepting his offering. And God came to him and questioned him, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it." (**Gen. 4:6-7**)
 - i. God highlighted that it had nothing to do with the offering and everything to do with the person offering the offering. Cain did not do well. He did not please the Lord. Which tells us that he did not offer his offering with faith. Because God *is pleased* when we offer him our faith, we noted that already.
 - ii. Instead of operating by faith, Cain was being lured away by sin. It was at the door and its desire was to take Cain.
 - iii. Cain made the mistake of thinking he could come to God and offer up his offerings all the while entertaining sin in his heart.
 - iv. Jesus said, "If you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift." (**Mt. 5:23-24**)
 - v. The principle is plain to see. Before we offer up our gifts and our offerings to the Lord, we need to have a right heart, we need to have our sin dealt with before God will accept our offerings.
 - vi. Cain's heart was not in the right place. Sin was lurking at the door, and his offering did not please God because He had not dealt with his sin issue.
 - c. Abel, on the other hand, demonstrated his faith and his right standing with God **through his worship**. He offered up a more excellent sacrifice to God.
7. We see through the life of Abel and his example that when it comes to our worship and what we offer to God, God is not nearly as concerned about *what* we offer as He is with *how* we offer it.
 - a. God is concerned most of all with our heart. Is our heart in the right place in our worship? God doesn't want us just going through the motions of our religious offerings, He wants our hearts.
 - i. Psalm 51:17 declares, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart—These, O God, You will not despise." (**Ps. 51:17**)
 - ii. Our worship must be sincere, it must be from a heart of faith.
 - b. Abel, though he has longed passed, still speaks to us regarding this truth, that our worship must come from a heart of faith.
- C. Back to our text we see that next we learn from a man named Enoch. Verses 5 & 6 read "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."

1. Though most of us were probably familiar with the account of Cain and Abel, perhaps you've never heard of Enoch. His story isn't as familiar as many of the others on this list, but his life still teaches us an important lesson about faith.
 2. The name Enoch appears in the genealogy from Adam down to Noah in Genesis 5.
 - a. The genealogy of chapter 5 is a list of 10 generations of men beginning with Adam and culminating with Noah and his three sons.
 - b. It's very basic without a lot of details. It simply lists that so and so was this many years old before he begot so and so and after he begot so and so he lived another so many years, had other sons and daughters and died. And this pattern is repeated over and over.
 - c. And as you read through the genealogy you come across this man named Enoch. It reads, "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." (**Gen. 5:21-24**)
 - d. Enoch is the only person in the lineage not to experience death after a certain number of years. All the other people listed off in the genealogy died, all except Enoch.
 - i. In fact, in all the Bible there are only two people mentioned that never experienced death, one of them is Enoch and the other is Elijah the prophet. If you recall, Elijah was taken up into heaven by the Lord upon a chariot of fire led by horses of fire according to 2 Kings chapter 2. (**2 Kgs. 2:11**)
 - e. Now another interesting thing in the genealogy of chapter 5 is that of all the people listed it is said of Enoch alone that he walked with God.
 - i. No one else in chapter 5 is said to have done this. We know of course that Adam did walk with God while in the Garden of Eden prior to the fall. And we do know that later on in Genesis 6 that it is said that Noah too walked with God. But the number of people recorded as having walked with God is very short.
 - f. So this man Enoch lived a very unique life. He is one who walked with God and was not, God simply taking him up without him ever tasting of death.
 - g. Enoch's faith was demonstrated through his walk with the Lord and he teaches us the importance of our **walk with God** and how we can be well pleasing to the Lord through our walk.
 - h. Enoch pleased God and according to verse 6 the only way that he could do so was through faith. For it is impossible to please God without faith, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
 - i. Through his walk with God, Enoch demonstrated that he not only knew God, but that he was a man who diligently sought Him out.
 - ii. What does our walk say about the Lord and our relationship with Him? Do people look at our walk, our way of living, and come to the conclusion that we know God and that we are diligently seeking Him out?
 - The Scriptures describe how we as followers of Christ are to walk by faith and not by sight. (**2 Co. 5:7**)
 - How we are to walk according to the Spirit and not according to the flesh. In fact, Paul tells us in the book of Romans that it is impossible to please God while in the flesh. (**Rom. 8:8**)
 - If you want to have a walk that pleases God you cannot be led by the flesh, you must submit your life to the Spirit of God and His leading.
 - iii. So we see through the life of Enoch a lesson about faith and our walk. How our walk needs to be led by the Spirit, how we are to walk by faith and not by sight, how we can please God by the way we live our lives.
 - i. My hope for us all, is that our walk demonstrates our faith in God. That our walk is well pleasing to the Lord. That our walk shows that we not only know God and have a personal relationship with Him, but that we are ones who diligently seek Him out, to grow in our relationship with Him.
 3. Let's continue in our text and take a look at one more person who demonstrated faith to us.
- D. Verse 7 reads "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."
 1. Noah, we all know his account, right? It too is found in the book of Genesis. And there are a great many of lessons that can be learned from the life of Noah and his life of faith.
 2. Noah lived in a day and age where sin and wickedness ran rampant. It is said of the days of Noah that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of man's heart was only evil continually. Noah lived in some scary times. (**Gen. 6:5**)
 3. But we're told in verse 8 of chapter 6 that Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. (**Gen. 6:8**)
 4. Despite all the evil and wickedness surrounding him, Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations and Noah walked with God. (**Gen. 6:9**)
 - a. Now, when it says he was just and perfect, that does not mean he was sinless, but simply that he had a right relationship with the Lord. He walked with God, like Enoch who came before him, and he pleased the Lord, living a life of faith.

5. Now, as most of you are aware, God came to Noah and told Him about His plans to wipe out the earth with a catastrophic global flood and he instructed Noah to build an ark that may be used to survive the flood.
6. God told Noah that when he finished building the ark that he was to get on board, he along with his wife, his sons, and their wives. And that along with his family, God would also send two of every living creature that walked upon the face of the earth or flew over the face of the earth, one male and one female to join Noah and his family upon the ark in order to salvage the wildlife upon the earth.
7. Now, imagine that scenario for a second.
 - a. You live in a time and place where people's hearts are continually evil. But you are doing your best to live for the Lord and to honor Him, to live a life of faith.
 - b. And God comes along and tells you to build this gigantic boat for you, your family, and a whole bunch of animals to live upon while God sends a catastrophic flood upon the entire face of the earth.
 - c. Something that has never ever happened before, something nobody had even ever seen, or I imagine even dreamed of happening. You live out in the middle of the desert where a boat would have no value whatsoever.
 - d. Do you do what God tells you to do? Or do you question God and tell Him that His plan makes absolutely no sense at all, and that His plan is going to make you look like a cuckoo?
8. Well, Noah, by faith, moved with godly fear began to prepare for himself, his family and all those animals an ark.
 - a. And not only that, the Bible tells us that during that time, Noah was a preacher of righteousness. (**2 Pt. 2:5a**)
 - b. Which tells me that as he began to build that ark and do the work that God had called him to, people came by and they asked him about what he was doing.
 - c. *"Hey Noah! What you doing? What is this monstrosity you're building here and what is it for?"*
 - d. And Noah would respond by telling them exactly what the ark was for. He would call people to turn from their sins and warn them of the judgment that was coming.
 - e. He was faithful to not only do the work God had called Him to, but to warn the people of God's impending judgment.
 - f. He wasn't shy about the work God had called him to and he shared God's message with all who would hear him.
 - g. Noah demonstrated his faith through **his work**. He was faithful to the work God had called him to. And he teaches us the importance of being faithful in the things God has called us to.

- i. The Bible says that we are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (**Eph. 2:10**)
- ii. God has a specific work He has called each of us to. And God expects us to be faithful to that work. We are called to be servants of the Lord and stewards of the mysteries of God. And the Bible says that what is required most of all from stewards is that they be found faithful. (**1 Co. 4:2**)
- iii. Will we be faithful to the work God has called us to, when everyone else all around us is doing something different?
- iv. Will we be faithful to the work God has called us to when doing so will make us look like we're crazy?
- v. Will we be faithful to the work God has called us to when we don't see any evidence of fruit from our labors?
 - Do you realize that Noah preached for years upon years without one person ever coming to faith, in the Lord. The only people who were saved were his own family. There's a lesson in and of itself. To what lengths are you willing to go to bring salvation to your family?
- vi. Will we be faithful to the work God called us to when it doesn't make any sense to us and our own ideas?
- vii. Will we be faithful to the work of God when the storms of life come and we experience pain, and difficulties, and heartache?
- h. Noah did. And the hope is that we will learn from the life of Noah and do the same. Noah was faithful to the work God called Him to. And as such he became heir of the righteousness to come which is according to faith.
9. (**Review**) May we too live as heirs of righteousness in a world that is falling apart all around us. May we be those who demonstrate our faith through the work God has called us to. May our faith be seen in our worship of the Lord and may it be seen in our walk with Him.
 - a. Amen? Amen. Let's pray.