

## Hebrews Lesson 47

### Chapter 11

30 June 2025

#### Vs 4 “By faith Abel...”

- Abel’s short-term reward (vs 6) for being faithful: death.

**“...offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain...”**

- Cain was not right with God, yet he lived, married, had children, grandchildren...
  - In the short term, the unbeliever can live a comfortable life.
- The writer of Hebrews wants the Hebrew believers to see that they are more like faithful Abel than they are of disobedient Cain.

**“...by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead...”**

- In the short term, things may not be pleasant for the faithful believer. Abel died early but ended up with God for eternity.
- In the long term, Cain also died. He may have lived a longer life, but he ended up in hell for eternity.

**“...and by it he being dead yet speaketh.”**

- God was still bragging on faithful Abel four thousand years after his death.

#### Vs 5 “By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death...he had this testimony, that he pleased God.”

- This is a picture of the rapture of the Church (to be removed from the earth and transported to be with God in heaven without dying).
  - Short term: Enoch was separated from his family.
  - Long term: He is with God forever.
- Your salvation may cost you some family relationships. It will be worth it in the end.

**“By faith Enoch was translated...”** He had a choice. He could have told God, “*No thanks.*”

- He estimated that it was better to go on with the Lord than to stay behind.
- You can’t be a great Christian if you’re not willing to give up some things in this world.

**“...for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.”**

- God enjoyed Enoch’s company. They walked together (Amos 3:3).
- God liked David (1 Chronicles 28:4).
- Jesus wanted to spend time with Zachaeus (Luke 19:5).
- Jesus loved John and didn’t mind him leaning on his bosom (John 13:23).

#### Vs 6 “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

- You would never come to God if you didn’t believe that He exists.
- You would not read your bible if you didn’t believe there was some benefit.
- You would not pray if you didn’t believe it was worth your time.

- You wouldn't witness if you didn't believe what the bible says about the destiny of souls.
- You would not separate yourself from sin and the world if you didn't believe that it is worth it.
- You must believe that there is a reward for acting on faith.
- Example: Haggai 1:7-8. God told the Israelites to rebuild the temple. Faith was required to do that work. No one would have taken action if they didn't believe God.
- It is impossible to please God without faith. Faith without works is dead (James 2:17) but dead works do not please God (Heb 6:1). Faith must be what makes you take action.

**Vs 7 “By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear...”**

- If Noah didn't believe God, he would not have moved to build the ark.

**“...prepared an ark to the saving of his house...”** His faith saved him, not the ark.

- Short term: Noah was ridiculed, mocked, called names, outcast, unpopular.
  - Not only for building the ark, but for condemning the people. *“God is going to drown you because you are evil.”*
    - There is no nice way to tell people they are going to hell.
- Long term: It was worth it because they were saved from certain death.

**“...by the which he condemned the world...”**

- You are not going to enjoy telling people they're going to hell if they don't repent and receive Jesus Christ.
  - It will cost you your reputation, social opportunities, money, etc. in the short term. People will be angry with you.
  - You will do it by faith, knowing that in the long run, it is the only hope anybody has.
- The message to the Hebrews is that it is better long term to go on with God than it is to go back.