

A Better Way
What Faith Does
Hebrews 11.3-40

Hebrews is the book of the Better Way, in Hebrews we have seen,

- **Our Superlative Savior**

- Jesus Christ is not another way to heaven
- Jesus Christ is not a better way to heaven
- Jesus Christ is the **ONLY WAY** to heaven

John 14:6 - Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

- **Our Better Purging** – We are fully Pardoned from our sins when Jesus Christ,

Hebrews 1:3 - . . . by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

- **Our Better “So Great A Salvation”** (2.3)
- **Our Better Word From God** – This King James Bible
- **Our Better Prayer** - Standing in the presence of God.
- **A Better Anchor of the Soul** (Heb 6)
- **A Better Blood** (Heb 9)
- **A Better Presence** (Heb 10.19-22)
- **A Better Purpose** (Heb 10.22)
- **A Better Substance**
- **A Better Faith** (Heb 11.1)

Today we discover **What Faith Does**

Read Text – Heb 11.1-6

A. Our Faith,

1. Informs Us (vs 1-3) – The Revelation Of Faith

In the Word of God, God Reveals many things that we could not know apart from the Word of God.

We must always remember that Biblical Faith, as defined by God is dependent upon first receiving a Word from God. Hence the Word of God informs us through the revelation of God.

Romans 10:17 - *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

What we choose to do, what each individual chooses to do with God's given Revelation will determine if this revelation results in Biblical Faith or not.

If you choose to,

- Reject the revelation of God, then there is no Faith.
- Change the revelation of God, there is no Faith.
- Receive and surrender to the revelation of God, there is a quickening and life changing Faith in the heart and life of the believer. There is the development of Biblical Faith.

For this reason the Word of God states,

Deuteronomy 29:29 - *The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.*

Example of these revelations of God include,

- **Creation (vs 3)**

Hebrews 11:3 - *Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.*

- **Salvation** - Apart from the Revelation of God we could not know how to be saved.
- **Incarnation**
- **Virgin Birth**
- **Trinity**
- **Coming Rapture**
- **God's Plan for the Ages**
- **Heaven and Hell**

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A. Our Faith,

1. Informs us - Revelation

None of these, and much more, could be known apart from the Word of God and any changes to the Word of God manipulate any and all revelations given.

2. **Redeems Us (vs 4) – Salvation** - *By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness **that he was righteous**, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.*

The Revelation of Cain and Abel reveals salvation for us. Notice that Abel obtained witness that he was righteous.

Considering that,

Romans 3:10 - *As it is written, **There is none righteous**, no, not one:*

What makes us Righteous?

Romans 5:19 - *For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.*

The Finished work of our Lord Jesus Christ on Calvary's Cross makes all who will be saved righteous. I am not righteous in myself, it is the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ that was placed upon me that makes me righteous.

Abel obtained, through his redemption, His righteousness. Why? Because he heard God and surrendered to God and came to God God's way. Cain tried to come his own way and was rejected by God.

This is the age old story of Salvation.

By hearing the Revelation of God concerning how we come to God and find redemption and surrendering to God's revealed plan we too receive Salvation. That salvation is by grace through faith.

3. **Transforms Us (vs 5) – The Rapture** - *By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.*

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A. Our Faith,

- 1. Informs us – Revelation**
- 2. Redeems us - Salvation**

Enoch and his translation pictures a couple of things for us. He pictures,

- **The Rapture** – Which is when the Church will be changed in the twinkling of an eye and taken to be with our Lord Jesus Christ. This is God's promise of everlasting life manifested in born again Christians.

In this sense Enoch points to the security of the believer, they are saved, safe, and secure in our Lord Jesus Christ.

- **Our Spiritual Transformation** – As defined in,

Romans 12:1–2 - *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. ²And be not conformed to this world: **but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

When Born-Again the believer is transformed by God so that he is no longer who he was prior to his salvation. The believer may not fully realize the extent of his transformation at the time of his salvation, but he is none-the-less transformed with a full supernatural spiritual transformation.

4. **Delivers Us (vs 7) – By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.**

In the call of God to Noah to build an ark and save his family from the unseen and unknown danger of the coming flood we clearly see,

- A great picture of Salvation – another sermon for another day
- A revelation of God’s Deliverance.

Noah had never seen a large body of water. Noah had never seen rain before or a storm, as is clearly revealed in the Word of God. Noah would have never seen a large boat before.

But in the revelation God gave Noah God warned him of the coming danger and destruction and directed him to safety through the building of the Ark.

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A. Our Faith,

- 1. Informs us – Revelation**
- 2. Redeems us – Salvation**
- 3. Transforms us - Enoch**
- 4. Delivers Us – Noah**

So, God does for those who will hear and heed His Word. We are warned of,

- **Coming Judgment** – The Judgment Seat of Christ, and The Great White Throne Judgment and how to prepare for them.
- **Perilous Times** to come before the Tribulation Period and how to prepare for these.
- **The Coming Tribulation Period** and how to avoid it.
- **A Lake of Fire and Brimstone**

There are many multiplied warnings given in the Word of God. Will you discover them and heed them?

Noah was warned of God, and faithfully believed God and responded to God, because of his faith Noah and his family were delivered, they were saved.

So Likewise we are warned by God in His Word, will you believe God, heed God, and respond by calling out to the Lord Jesus Christ for your salvation.

5. Compels Us (vs 8-19) – Abraham, Sarah

- **To Go For God (vs 8-9)** – Abraham left his home country to go where God led him

- **To Endure for God (vs 11)** – God’s promise we long in coming and some still coming.
- **To Surrender to God (vs 19)** – The Sacrifice and expected Resurrection if Isaac.

Hebrews 11:19 - Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.

Abraham was fully persuaded God would fulfill His promises.

6. Prepares Us (vs 23-31) – Moses and Joshua

Hebrews 11:24 - By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter;

Moses was prepared in Pharaoh's own house.

Joshua was prepared by serving beside Moses.

7. Persuades Us (vs 32-40)

Hebrews 11:32–40 - And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: ³³Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. ³⁵Women received their dead raised to life again: . . .

*. . . **and others were tortured,** not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: ³⁶And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: ³⁷They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; ³⁸(Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. ³⁹And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: ⁴⁰God having*

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5. Compels Us - Abraham

provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

What do these verses reveal? That there are more situations and potential persecutions than we can possibly prepare for, but in them all our Salvation is fully secure. Whatever may come our way in our Christian Journey a Biblical Faith, properly understood and established, will prepare us for anything.

How is your Faith?

Is your Faith worldly faith or Biblical (Word of God) faith?

CrossRoads Baptist Church, Jan 1, 2022

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- 6. Prepares Us – Moses, Joshua**
- 7. Persuades Us**