

Hebrews 11:1-16

Faith in God's Promises

Portraits of Faith: Abel

- By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead.
- Abel brought a “better” offering
- Cain’s offering showed that he thought his own work was enough
- Question: What are we giving to God and is it coming from a genuine heart of love and commitment?

Portraits of Faith: Enoch

- By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death: “He could not be found, because God had taken him away.” For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.
- Father of Methusaleh when he was 65- then he walked with God
- After 365 years “then he was no more”
- Question: Are you walking in step with the Lord? Or do you find yourself trying to rush ahead of him, anxious to get to the next thing, only to find yourself tripping in your haste? How do you need to slow down and trust God with the step by faithful step?

Portraits of Faith: Noah

- By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.
- Genesis 6:9 “This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God.”
- Genesis 6:22 “Noah did everything just as God commanded him.”
- Question: What has God been speaking to you recently? If nothing, are you being attentive? Are you eager to hear the voice of the Lord? Has he asked you to do something and you hesitate?

Portraits of Faith: Abraham

- By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.
- Genesis 12:1 The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.”
- Confident in a God who speaks
- Question: How do you need to put your reliance upon God? How might you be relying on yourself or someone else but need to rely on God? How can you trust God if you don’t know what comes next?

Portraits of Faith: Sarah

- And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.
- Genesis 21: 6 "Sarah said, 'God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.' And she added, 'Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.'"
- Question: What bold thing do you want to ask for that you feel might even be laughable? Can you trust God for the impossible?

Faith is...

- Heb 11:13 “All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth.”
- Heb 11:1 “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”

Questions

- What are we giving to God and is it coming from a genuine heart of love and commitment?
- Are you walking in step with the Lord?
- What has God been speaking to you recently?
- How do you need to put your reliance upon God?
- What bold thing do you want to ask for that you feel might even be laughable?