



WALKING ON WATER
BIBLE CHURCH

BIBLICAL *Faith*

— HEBREWS 11:1-7 —

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Hebrews 11:1-7

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.

3 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.

Hebrews 11:1-7

4 By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

5 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.

Hebrews 11:1-7

6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

7 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.

The Bridge Into Hebrews 11

CONTEXT

- Hebrews 10:35–39 calls believers to endurance rather than drawing back.
- The writer quotes: “the just shall live by faith” (Hebrews 10:38).
- Hebrews 11 then demonstrates what persevering faith looks like in real lives.

What Hebrews 11 Is—and Is Not

CONTEXT

- Not merely a list of extraordinary heroes.
- It is a record of ordinary, imperfect people trusting the faithful God.
- The chapter shows faith acting when God's promise is not yet visible.



I. WHAT FAITH IS

Hebrews 11:1

Hebrews 11:1 — The Structure

HEBREWS 11:1

- “Faith is the substance of things hoped for...”
- “...the evidence of things not seen.”
- The verse describes the character and operation of faith—not a power for creating reality.

“Substance” — Hypostasis

HEBREWS 11:1

- Greek: hypostasis — assurance, confidence, substantial basis.
- Faith gives present confidence concerning what God has promised for the future.
- Biblical hope is not wishful thinking; it rests on the character and word of God.

“Things Hoped For”

HEBREWS 11:1

- The object of faith is not whatever we personally desire.
- Faith responds to what God has revealed and promised.
- Faith says: “God has spoken; therefore I can live now in light of what He has promised.”

“Evidence” — Elenchos

HEBREWS 11:1

- Greek: elenchos — conviction, proof, inner certainty.
- Faith is conviction concerning realities that cannot presently be seen.
- The unseen is not unreal; God’s revelation gives sufficient reason to trust Him.

Faith Is Not Blind

HEBREWS 11:1

- Biblical faith is not belief without reason.
- It is confidence in the trustworthy God who has revealed Himself.
- Faith moves beyond what the eyes can verify without contradicting what God has said.

A Working Definition of Faith

HEBREWS 11:1

- Faith is trusting God enough to act/stand on His Word before we see the outcome.
- It takes God at His Word, orders life accordingly, and waits for Him to fulfill His promise.



II. THE ELDERS RECEIVED A TESTIMONY

Hebrews 11:2–3

Who Are “The Elders”?

HEBREWS 11:2

- Greek: presbyteroi — here meaning the people of old, the ancestors, the ancient faithful.
- This is not a reference to the office of church elder.
- Hebrews 11:4–38 identifies them through the lives that follow.

They “Obtained a Good Testimony”

HEBREWS 11:2

- Their defining commendation came from God.
- God bore witness to people who trusted Him.
- The same theme returns in Hebrews 11:39: all these obtained a testimony through faith.

Faith Begins With God as Creator

HEBREWS 11:3

- Hebrews 11:3 moves from the elders to the foundation beneath all faith.
- By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God.
- Visible creation ultimately came from what is not visible to human sight.

Creation Establishes the Pattern

HEBREWS 11:3 • GENESIS 1

- God speaks—and reality answers.
- Faith therefore begins by taking seriously the Word of the unseen God.
- Genesis 1 repeatedly presents creation responding to God's command.



III. ABEL — FAITH THAT WORSHIPS

Hebrews 11:4

Abel in the Old Testament

ABEL • GENESIS 4

- Primary account: Genesis 4:1–10.
- Abel was the second son of Adam and Eve and a keeper of sheep.
- He brought an offering from the firstborn of his flock and their fat.

Abel Offered “By Faith”

ABEL • HEBREWS 11:4

- Hebrews explains what Genesis records: Abel’s offering was presented by faith.
- His sacrifice was “more excellent” than Cain’s.
- God testified concerning Abel’s gifts and righteousness.

Why Was Abel Accepted?

ABEL • GENESIS 4:3–7

- The text emphasizes faith, not merely the material of the offering.
- Genesis also describes Abel bringing the firstborn and their fat—language of priority and value.
- Cain’s problem cannot be reduced simply to “plants versus blood”; his heart and response expose unbelief.

Faith Worships God on God's Terms

ABEL

- True worship is not merely bringing something to God.
- Faith approaches God with reverence, trust, and obedient regard for Him.
- God is concerned with both the worshiper and the worship offered.

Abel Still Speaks

ABEL • HEBREWS 11:4; 12:24

- Abel died, but the testimony of his faith remains.
- Genesis 4:10 says his blood cried from the ground.
- Hebrews 12:24 later contrasts Abel's blood with the better-speaking blood of Jesus.

Character Lesson — Abel

ABEL — APPLICATION

- Faith affects how I worship.
- God's approval matters more than human recognition.
- A faithful life can continue speaking long after the person is gone.



IV. ENOCH — FAITH THAT WALKS

Hebrews 11:5–6

Enoch in the Old Testament

ENOCH • GENESIS 5

- Primary account: Genesis 5:21–24.
- Enoch lived 365 years.
- Twice Genesis emphasizes that “Enoch walked with God.”

Enoch Was Taken

ENOCH • HEBREWS 11:5

- Genesis 5:24: Enoch was no more, because God took him.
- Hebrews 11:5 interprets this as being translated so that he did not see death.
- Before he was taken, he had the testimony that he pleased God.

Walking With God

ENOCK

- A walk describes an ongoing pattern, not an isolated spiritual moment.
- Enoch's faith was relational, continual, and lived.
- Faith is not merely what we confess—it becomes the direction of our life.

Without Faith It Is Impossible

ENOCH • HEBREWS 11:6

- Hebrews 11:6 states a universal principle: without faith it is impossible to please God.
- Religious activity cannot substitute for trusting God.
- The God-pleasing life begins with confidence in God Himself.

Two Convictions of the God-Seeker

ENOCH • HEBREWS 11:6

- We must believe that God IS—He is real, living, and worthy of trust.
- We must believe that He rewards those who diligently seek Him.
- Faith seeks God because it trusts both His existence and His character.

Character Lesson — Enoch

ENOCH — APPLICATION

- Faith affects how I walk.
- The goal is not occasional encounters with God but a life oriented toward God.
- Pleasing God is inseparable from trusting Him.



V. NOAH — FAITH THAT OBEYS

Hebrews 11:7

A Note on the Passage

HEBREWS 11:4–7

- Abel is verse 4; Enoch is verses 5–6.
- Noah's character study begins in Hebrews 11:7.
- Including verse 7 completes the first three named elders in the chapter.

Noah in the Old Testament

NOAH • GENESIS 6–9

- Primary account: Genesis 5:28–9:29.
- Genesis 6:8 says Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.
- Genesis 6:9 describes him as just and says Noah walked with God.

Warned of Things Not Yet Seen

NOAH • HEBREWS 11:7

- God warned Noah about a judgment he had never seen.
- Hebrews connects Noah directly to the definition of faith in verse 1.
- He trusted God's warning before visible circumstances confirmed it.

Moved With Godly Fear

NOAH • HEBREWS 11:7

- Noah's faith produced reverent action.
- He did not merely agree that God's warning was possible.
- He built the ark because he regarded God's Word as certain.

Noah Did What God Commanded

NOAH • GENESIS 6:22; 7:5

- Genesis 6:22: Noah did according to all that God commanded him.
- Genesis 7:5 repeats the same emphasis.
- Faith is visible in obedience when obedience is costly, lengthy, and socially unusual.

Faith Condemned the World

NOAH • HEBREWS 11:7

- Noah's obedient response exposed the unbelief surrounding him.
- His life demonstrated that God's warning was worthy of belief.
- Faithful obedience can become a testimony against a culture that refuses God's Word.

Heir of Righteousness by Faith

NOAH • HEBREWS 11:7

- Noah became an heir of the righteousness that is according to faith.
- His obedience did not purchase righteousness; it demonstrated the faith by which he lived.
- Grace, faith, and obedience belong together without making works the basis of acceptance.

Character Lesson — Noah

NOAH — APPLICATION

- Faith affects how I obey.
- Faith acts on God's warning before judgment becomes visible.
- Real faith can keep obeying even when fulfillment seems far away.



VI. THREE ELDERS — THREE PORTRAITS OF FAITH

Abel • Enoch • Noah

Abel, Enoch, and Noah

SYNTHESIS

- ABEL — Faith WORSHIPS: he approached God by faith.
- ENOCH — Faith WALKS: he lived in fellowship with God.
- NOAH — Faith OBEYS: he acted on what God said before he saw it.

One Faith, Different Circumstances

SYNTHESIS

- Abel trusted God in worship.
- Enoch trusted God through a lifetime of walking.
- Noah trusted God in a long assignment shaped by an unseen future.

The Question Hebrews Places Before Us

APPLICATION

- Do I trust God only when I can see what He is doing?
- Does my faith shape my worship, my walk, and my obedience?
- What testimony is my present life leaving about the God I say I trust?

The Pattern of Hebrews 11

CONCLUSION

- God SPEAKS.
- Faith BELIEVES.
- Faith ACTS.
- God BEARS WITNESS to those who trust Him.

Lesson 1 — Takeaway

CONCLUSION

- Faith is confidence in God's promise when fulfillment is still unseen.
- The elders show us faith embodied in real lives.
- Abel worshiped. Enoch walked. Noah obeyed. Each trusted the same faithful God.

Next Character Studies

NEXT

- Hebrews 11:8–22 moves into the patriarchs.
- Abraham and Sarah introduce faith that goes, waits, receives, and offers.
- The series continues by asking not only what they believed—but what faith caused them to do.