

Faith Leads to Worship

October 29, 2017

I. Review

Definition of faith

Heb 2:1-2 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the men of old gain approval.

Substance (of things hoped for)

Means the foundation; assurance; title-deed; the guarantee.

Evidence (of things not seen)

Means a proof; proving; test.

Through faith we gain God's approval.

Faith is the ONLY THING that pleases God.

Heb 11:6 And 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 seek Him.

Heb 11:39 And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised,

God declares the person of faith justified.

Rom 3:21 But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; 25 whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; 26 for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. 27 Where then is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith. 28 For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law. 29 Or is God the God of Jews only? Is He not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, 30 since indeed God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith is one. (Rom 5:1, Gal 2:16, 3:24, Jas 2:24)

God declares the person of faith righteous

Romans 4:3-11 For what does the Scripture say? "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS." 4 Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. 5 But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness, 6 just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: 7 "BLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE LAWLESS DEEDS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN, AND WHOSE SINS HAVE BEEN COVERED. 8 "BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE SIN THE LORD WILL NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT." 9 Is this blessing then on the circumcised, or on the uncircumcised also? For we say, "FAITH WAS CREDITED TO ABRAHAM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS." 10 How then was it credited? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised; 11 and he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while uncircumcised, so that he might be the father of all who believe without being circumcised, that righteousness might be credited to them, (Rom 1:17; 3:22; 9:30-31; Gal 1:1, 5:5, Psl 3:9)

II. Faith sees God in creation (nature).

By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

There are 104 references to God as the Creator.

(Gen 1:1-28, 31; 2:1-25; 5:1-2; 9:6; Ex 20:11; 1Sa 2:8; 2Ki 19:15; 1Chr 16:26; Neh 9:6; Job 9:8-9; 10:3,8; 12:7-9; 26:7-13; 28: 23-26; 37:16, 18; 38:4-38; Ps 8:3;19:1,4; 24:1-2; 33:6-7, 9; 65:6; 74:16-17; 78: 69; 89:11-12, 47; 90:2; 95:4-5; 96:5; 102:25; 103:22; 104:2-3, 5-6, 24, 30-31; 119:90-91; 121:2; 124:8; 136:5-9; 146:5- 6; 148:5-6; Pr 3:19; 8:26-29; 16:4; 22:2; 26: 10; 30:4; Eccl 3:11; 7:29; 11:5; Isa 17:7; 37:16; 40:12, 26, 28; 42:5; 44:24; 45:7, 12, 18; 48:13; 51:13, 16; 66:2; Jer 5:22; 10:12-13, 16; 27: 5; 31:35; 32:17; 33:2; 51: 15, 16, 19; Am 4:13; 5:8; 9:6; Jon 1:9; Zec 12:1; Mk 10:6; 13:19; Ac 4:24; 7:50; 14: 15; 17:24-26; Rm 1:20; 11:36; 1Co 8:6; 11:12; 2Co 4:6; 5:5, 18; Eph 3:9; 1Ti 6:13; Heb 1:1-2; 2:10; 3:4; 11:3; Rev 4:11; 10:6; 14:7

Heb 11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God,

Understand = means to perceive with the mind, to understand, to know a fact.

God made creation to declare who He is.

Rm 1:20-21 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

The God kind of faith

God spoke and everything was created; what we see was not made from things that are visible.

Mark 11:21-24 And Jesus answered saying to them, "Have faith in God. Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be granted him. Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you."

A. "Have faith in God."

Literally, "Have the faith of God." (from Barnes' Notes)

B. The Greek grammar makes faith a command (Mk 11:22).

C. Faith is the answer to our challenges in life.

What do we do when -

anxious?

Have faith in God. He promises to work everything together for good.

disappointed?

Have faith in God. He promises to bring good out of bad in the lives of His children.

angry?

Have faith in God. He promises to settle scores on our behalf.

impoverished?

Have faith in God. He promises to meet every need.

facing sickness or death?

Have faith in God. He heals and gives eternal life.

lonely?

Have faith in God. You can be alone but need not be lonely, for His presence is near.

(from Nelson's Annual Preacher's Sourcebook; by R. J. Morgan)

When God made the world, He declared it to be “very good” (Gen 1:31).

But is the universe itself divine? Is Mother Nature sacred? No, because God made the world and its natural systems out of nothing (Heb 11:3). Nor is the creation self-sustaining; it depends on God for its continued existence (Col 1:17; Heb 1:3). This means that:

1. People can work only within the framework of preexisting physical realities.

Humans are not God, and cannot call things into existence from what was nonexistent.

2. The universe is not God.

Some philosophies and religions teach that the material universe and all it contains are a form of God, and/or that every human, animal, plant, and object contain a piece of God. But God is distinct from His creation.

3. The earth is not sacred.

Some conservationists ascribe a false value to creation by treating the earth and its flora and fauna as sacred. God wants humanity to manage the earth carefully, but not because the earth is sacred.

4. The earth is a resource that God has given humans to manage.

God has called His creation “very good” and has placed it under our rule for His glory and our benefit (Gen 1:26-30). We are to tend it, cultivate it, conserve it, reshape it, mine it, and consume it with the certainty that each of us will give a full accounting to God for what we do with and to His world (Rom 14:11-12; 1Cor 4:5). (from Word in Life Study Bible)

III. The faith of Abel

Heb 11:4 By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.

Gen 4:1-15 Outline

Birth of Cain and Abel (4:1-2)
Work of Cain (a farmer) and Abel (a shepherd) (4:2)
Personal worship of Cain and Abel (4:3-4)
God approves of Abel’s offering but not Cain’s (4:4-5)
God’s correction of Cain (4:5-7)
Cain’s response and failure (4:8-9)
Consequences of Cain’s sin (4:10-15)

This is a picture of all false religions and manmade false worship verses true worship of God.

Adam and Eve made loin coverings of fig leaves to cover their nakedness (Gen 3:7). God covers them with skin from an animal (probably a sheep), this was the first shedding of blood.

Natural		Spiritual
First Adam	1Cor 15:20-24; Rom 5:12-21	Jesus, Last Adam
Cain (of the devil)	Gen 4:1-7; Heb 11:4; 1Jn 3:12; Jude 4, 11	Abel (righteous)
Ishmael (bond, flesh)	Gal 4:21-31; Rom 9:7; Jn 8:31-44	Isaac (free, spirit)
Esau (hated)	Mal 1:1-3; Rom 9:13	Jacob (loved)

Lessons learned by Adam and Eve

1. Sin caused death and separated them from God, resulting in guilt and shame.
2. Their efforts to clothe themselves was insufficient in their relationship with God.
3. An innocent substitute had to sacrificially die in order to cover man's sin.
4. Man could only approach God if his shame and guilt were hid through the sacrificial death of an innocent substitute.

Occupations of Cain and Abel

Gen 4:2 ... Abel was the keeper of flocks, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.
Their jobs met the basic needs of their families and society, that of clothing and food.

They learned the skills of their profession from their father, Adam. God, Himself had shown Adam how to clothe his family, with the skins of animals (Gen 3:21). God had also instructed Adam to till the ground (Gen 3:17-23). As a father, he probably taught his sons how to work.

Worship (offerings) of Cain and Abel

Gen 4:3 So it came about in the course of time ... (the Hebrew means *at the end of the days*). Perhaps at the end of the week, on the 7th day, for this was the day God set aside for rest and worship (Gen 2:3).

They bring their offerings to a specific place.

Many believe that this was the place that God may have clothed Adam and Eve. Adam must have established a very special place and a very special altar where he and his family sought after God and worshipped.

Adam worshipped and taught his children to approach God through the sacrifice of an animal.

Their personal worship

Cain's false worship, he approached God and offered produce – the works of his own hands – to God.

Rom 3:20 by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin. (Gal 2:16)

Cain's offering was unacceptable to God, he didn't approach God through the blood sacrifice of an innocent life. He offered only what his own mind and hands produced.

Rom 10:3 For not knowing about God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.

Cain wanted to use a different approach to God, he wanted God to accept him because of his hard work. The bible calls all false approaches and ways to God "the way of Cain" (Jude 4, 11).

Abel's true worship, he approached God and offered a sacrifice – a substitute life to God.

Jn 4:23 ... the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshippers. (Col 3:3)

Abel had faith, he believed that God would accept him through the sacrifice of an innocent life. God accepted his approach of a blood sacrifice of an innocent life (Heb 11:3).