

A person is silhouetted against a vibrant, starry night sky. The sky transitions from a warm orange glow at the bottom to a deep blue and purple at the top. A large, dark diamond shape with a double-line border is centered in the sky. A yellow rectangular box is overlaid on the diamond, containing the text.

Pleasing God

Faith and Works in
Hebrews 11:1-7

Hebrews 10–12

- You Did It Before (10:32-34)
- You Need to Keep Doing It (10:35-39)
 - Look at Them--They Did It (11:1-40)
- Don't Stop Doing It (12:1-29)

What Does Faith Do? (11:1)

- Now faith is...
 - More a description than a definition
 - Context: 'endure now because of what is coming later'
 - Even tho you can't see what's coming later, it is none-the-less real

What Does Faith Do? (11:1)

- Now faith is...
 - Assurance of things hoped for
 - The confidence of an eye-witness
 - Faith gives us that confidence
 - Deals with facts and reality
 - Creation (3), God (6), future (13)

What Does Faith Do? (11:1)

- Now faith is...
 - Assurance of things hoped for
 - Better possession (10:34; 12:22-24)
 - What was promised (10:35; 11:13-16)

What Does Faith Do? (11:1)

- Now faith is...
 - Conviction of things not seen
 - Faith influences us in order to convince us
 - $A^2 + B^2 = C^2$
 - Faith serves as proof

What Does Faith Do? (11:1)

- Now faith is...
 - Conviction of things not seen
 - Creation (11:1), God (11:6; 27),
Future reward (11:13-16; 24-26;
28)

Vincent's Word Studies

“Faith apprehends as real fact what is not revealed to the senses. It rests on that fact, acts upon it, and is upheld by it in the face of all that seems to contradict it. Faith is real seeing.”

What Does Faith Do? (11:2)

- For by it the men of old gained approval
 - Approval – *were borne witness to*
 - *Martyr – one who bares witness to the truth*
 - God bore witness to their faith

Examples of Faith (11:4-7)

1. By faith Abel offered to God...

- Gen. 4:1-8

- Is the focus on the offering? (11:4)

- “And the LORD had regard for Abel and for his offering” (4:4)

- Ps. 51:16-17; Mark 12:28-34

Examples of Faith (11:4-7)

1. By faith Abel offered to God...

- Gen. 4:1-8

- Is the focus on the offering? (11:4)

- God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble (James 4:6)

Examples of Faith (11:4-7)

1. By faith Abel offered to God...

- Abel demonstrated his faith (and humility) through his sacrifice
 - *Gained approval* as righteous
 - God demonstrated His approval of Abel by accepting Abel's sacrifice

Examples of Faith (11:4-7)

2. By faith Enoch [walked with God]...

- Gen. 5:21-24
 - Was taken up? How?
 - Was not found?

Examples of Faith (11:4-7)

2. By faith Enoch [walked with God]...
 - Enoch demonstrated his faith through the way he lived
 - *Gained approval* as pleasing (LXX)
 - God demonstrated His approval of Enoch by taking him up

Pleasing to God? (6)

- What should we do with that?
- If it's not possible to please God, why is Enoch commended for it?
 - Or is Enoch used as an bad example?

Pleasing to God? (6)

- Without faith it is impossible to please Him
- With faith it is possible to please Him!
 - In light of God's promises – 12:28; 13:11-16
 - Participating with God – 13:20-21

Pleasing to God? (6)

- Col. 1:9-12
- 1 Cor. 7:32-34
- Rom. 12:1-2
- Rom. 14:16-19
- See the handout

- God's will
- Holiness
- Sacrifice
- Motives
- Love for God

Examples of Faith (11:4-7)

2. By faith Noah ... prepared an ark

- Gen. 6:8–9:29

- Noah found favor, was a righteous man, blameless in his time (6:8-9)

- Flood came ~100 years after the warning

Examples of Faith (11:4-7)

3. By faith Noah ... prepared an ark

- Noah demonstrated his faith through his obedience (Gen. 6:22)
 - Acted on things not yet seen (11:7)
- God demonstrated His approval of Noah by saving him from the flood

So What? (12:1-29)

- Therefore...
 - Cloud of witnesses
 - *Martyr – one who bares witness to the truth*
 - These bore witness and were borne witness to (11:39)

So What? (12:1-29)

- Therefore...
 - Run with endurance
 - You have need of endurance (10:36)
 - Endure now because of what is coming later
 - Throw off what slows you down

So What? (12:1-29)

- Therefore...
 - Fixing our eyes on Jesus
 - He endured because of what was to come after (2)
 - He did it – now you do it (3)
 - He will help throw off (4-11)

James 1:2-4

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.