

# Noah's Faith

*Heb. 11:7*

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Introduction:

1. I want to read **Hebrews 11:7** ..

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.

2. I believe all of you are familiar with the history behind this verse - about Noah, the Ark, his family, his faith, and the flood. Based on this verse, I want to concentrate on Noah's faith in our study tonight.

Body:

## I. NOAH'S FAITH WAS BASED ON DIVINE REVELATION.

- A. This verse says he was "divinely warned of things not yet seen." The KJV says he was **warned of God.**

1. Noah didn't just dream all of this up.
2. He didn't say to himself – there may be water someday in the future, and we may need this big boat.
3. God spoke to Him – he was "divinely warned of things not yet seen."
4. His faith – that prompted his work, was based on **what God said!**

- B. He listened to God, and he believed everything God said ... **the Bible calls this "faith."**

C. And this is what we need – in our lives, our families, churches and the nation – FAITH, where we just listen to God, believe Him and do whatever He says.

1. Rom. 10:17 says that faith comes by hearing the Word of God.
2. People sometimes wonder why they have no faith, or weak faith.
  - a. Do they ever read the Bible?
  - b. Do they attend assemblies which are designed to worship God?
  - c. Do they come to Bible classes?
3. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God.

D. And sometimes people talk about men like Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joseph and Daniel like they were supermen – men different from us in their basic nature.

1. Thinking like this prompted James to say, about Elijah – he was “a man with a nature like ours,” in Jas. 5:17.
2. If these men were different – it was not a difference in their basic nature; they were not supermen – **THEY WERE BELIEVERS IN GOD!**

3. When these men demonstrated good character and did great things – it was because they listened to God, believed Him and then acted accordingly to what He said.
- E. That’s exactly what we need to do.
1. Our thinking and our lives must be rooted and anchored in the Word of God.
  2. Our faith and our hope must be in God, and that requires regular contact with His Word.
- F. Noah’s faith was based on divine revelation.

II. **NOAH’S FAITH WAS NOT DEPENDENT ON SIGHT.**

- A. Sometime you’ll hear someone say – ***If I cannot see it, I do not believe it!***
1. But I don’t know of anybody who applies that rule objectively and consistently.
  2. Unless you have just returned from a trip to Haiti – you didn’t see that earthquake ... not with direct, personal vision!
  3. But we believe it happened.
  4. When we study history – when we read about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln ... none of us were there (some of you may have missed it by just a few years) ...

5. But though we have never “laid our eyes” on those men, we believe they lived.
  6. There are many areas in life – where faith operates; where we depend upon evidence and witnesses, but without direct visual confirmation.
- B. Noah got busy and acted – with reference to an event that was in the future; that he could not see yet – “Being warned of God about things NOT YET SEEN,” and likewise – Paul said **we walk by faith and not by sight** (2 Cor. 5:7).
- C. Faith gets to work without visual confirmation; faith involves believing God knows – and then getting busy because of what God says, that we cannot see.

### III. **NOAH’S FAITH DID NOT DEPEND UPON PUBLIC SUPPORT OR NUMERICAL STRENGTH.**

- A. There is this mentality that places great importance on public support and numerical strength.
1. It is a worldly concept.
  2. And the devil wants us to believe it!
  3. The devil wants us to think – because we are few in number, the cause is not valid.
  4. The devil hopes we buy into this dependence on numbers and public support.

5. In regard to religion and spiritual things, people have this idea – **if it isn't big, it isn't any good.**
  - a. We must have big churches, big budgets, big and complicated programs, big buildings and big preachers ... *I think little preachers are not that bad.*
  - b. The devil markets this product, and the world has bought it – you've got to be big!!
- B. Noah didn't take a public opinion poll to see what all the citizens thought about building this boat!
  1. He didn't count heads.
  2. He stood with God!
- C. Now – you may never reach a place in life where you are THE ONLY ONE with faith in God ... **but we will always be in the minority.**
- D. Faith demands that we be willing to stand up, speak up and do what's right – even though our congregations are not the largest in town!

IV. **NOAH'S FAITH CAUSED HIM TO MOVE WITH GODLY FEAR.**

- A. Do you know – one problem today is, people have **a fear of fear!!**
  1. Fear gets a lot of negative, undeserved press these days.

2. Books are written and seminars are conducted to help you eradicate fear.
  3. Well, there are some fears we shouldn't have – but let's not just get down on fear all together.
- B. In the Bible, there is a healthy, godly, constructive fear that pleases God, builds character and is part of saving faith!
1. Noah had – not only faith in God, but godly fear; his faith was accompanied by fear, and the result was – **WHEN GOD SPOKE, NOAH MOVED!**
  2. The KJV says that he “moved with fear.”
  3. And it may be helpful to note – the NAS says, “in reverence” Noah “prepared an ark.”
- C. There is nothing wrong with fear – and there is this good, healthy godly fear that accompanies faith.
1. The fear that causes a baby to cling to his mother *is a healthy fear.*
  2. The fear that helps motivate children to obey their parents *is a healthy fear.*
  3. The fear that causes adults to go to the Doctor; get medical exams; drive safely and locks their doors – these are healthy fears; **in some cases, we survive because of our fear!**

- D. Just so – biblical faith has this fear element; this deep sense of reverence and respect for God *that causes us to move!*
1. The “fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” in Prov. 1:7.
  2. Solomon wrote, at the end of Ecclesiastes, - you remember – **FEAR GOD, AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS.**
  3. Faith focuses our heart on the trustworthiness of God – His purity and absolute integrity.
  4. Fear focuses our heart on the Almighty God; His justice, His wrath and holiness.
- E. Noah had both faith and fear – we cannot survive without a faith that is accompanied by this fear.

V. **NOAH’S FAITH WAS A WORKING FAITH.**

- A. The Bible is absolutely consistent about this → The faith that pleases God never stands alone or is inactive.
1. The faith that pleases God is always busy; always growing ... always finding ways to do what’s right.
  2. The faith that pleases God isn’t just something we talk about – or claim or boast about.
  3. The faith that pleases God listens, learns and lives by the Word of God.
- B. People can talk all they want – about faith only – but we know that faith only would have drowned Noah and his family!

1. He was warned of God.
  2. About things not seen as yet.
  3. He moved with God fear; he prepared the ark.
  4. His faith discovered its' existence in obedience – which is exactly what James teaches us in Jas. 2:17 – “Faith without works is dead.”
- C. Faith that stands alone ... faith that is silent ... faith that does move us to obey – **is dead.**
- D. And it should be noted – when we study this about the activity of his faith ... that Noah, in his obedient faith, DID JUST EXACTLY WHAT THE LORD SAID.**

**NOAH BUILT THE ARK -- JUST EXACTLY AS GOD SAID.**

- A. **Gen. 6:22** is such a simple statement, but with such depth of meaning: “Thus Noah did; **according to all that God had commanded him, so he did.**”
- B. Can you imagine the modern man might have reacted to this instruction from God? **The modern man would probably have gone through a process of evaluating God’s instructions.**
1. Pitch coating is not very aesthetic.
  2. There really needs to be a second or even third door, to facilitate loading and unloading.
  3. There should be an emergency exit ... and what architect in his right mind would call for only one window?
  4. How could that possibly provide adequate light and ventilation!?

5. We may easily forget - in our human wisdom - that this ship was designed for capacity, survival and floating stability, NOT SPEED OR NAVIGATION.
- C. Noah was a free moral agent; he could have changed a few things, here and there ...
1. When he was finished altering the plan, he could have still called it "God's ark."
  2. But, do you think it would have survived the flood?
- D. The New Testament is God's plan for us today.
1. If we can change one thing about it, why can't we change two things about it?
  2. If we can change one or two things, why can't we ignore one or two things?
  3. The truth about this ought to be obvious:  
**If this is God's plan, it is perfect in every way - and we need to keep our hands off of it!**
  4. It doesn't make any difference what kind of instruction you are talking about --
    - a. God's instructions to marriages and families.
    - b. God's law for individual Christians.
    - c. God's pattern for the local church.
  5. **If this is God's plan, it is perfect in every way - and we need to keep our hands off of it!**
- E. You can take what God has said to local churches, ignore it - tamper with it - introduce all sorts of innovations and projects, as it pleases men ... and still put a sign outside that says, "CHURCH OF CHRIST," **but that's not the faith of Noah ... who did everything "according to all that God commanded him."**
- H. His faith was active, obedient – and in this activity, he followed the Lord's instructions.

VI. **NOAH'S FAITH WAS REWARDED.** (Saved Himself and His Family). Matt. 5:12; Heb. 10:35

- A. His faith was rewarded in two ways – he saved his family & he became “heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.”
- B. Have you ever thought about this? *When you die – what would you want your very last thought to be?*
  - 1. There isn't any doubt in my mind what my answer is – before I die, I would like for my last conscious thought to be, **thank God – my children and grandchildren are faithful to the Lord!**
  - 2. Children may not realize – what a burden their parents carry; **there is this strong desire that passes through your mind everyday, about saving your family.**
    - a. You do everything you can to preach the gospel to anybody, to everybody ...
    - b. You know you cannot save the world.
    - c. But there is this strong sense of love and obligation that never fades away ... *to save your family.*

3. Noah's wife and boys and their wives were *free moral agents; they had the capacity to do right or do wrong.*
4. In their lives before the flood – they were influenced by the faith of their father; they pleased God ... they didn't let the world pull them into its sinful grip ... and Noah saved his family.

C. Also, he **“became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.”**

1. He pleased God – and God regarded him as righteous; this was according to his faith.
2. I don't know if any of you watched the TV movie about Noah and the Flood earlier this year – it was a joke; dramatic license is one thing ... this was a joke.
3. The truth is, Noah put a good portion of his life into building that ark.
  - a. Time, Effort, Resources.
  - b. A family project.
4. What did he receive? **It could be said, he inherited the world ... in Gen. 9:3 God said, “I give all to you!”**

D. Now, what will we get? THE EARTH? **No, No; something far better ...**

1. Jesus said, “I go to prepare a place for you.”

2. This earth is being destroyed – by drug dealers, terrorists, murderers, godless leaders, parents who will not take the time to raise their children, and those obsessed by greed and money and worldly success ... **I don't want this world, I WANT HEAVEN!**
  3. Jesus said, “Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you,” (Matt. 5:12).
  4. And Heb. 10:35 says – we have need of endurance, “so that after [we] have done the will of God, [we] may receive the promise.”
- E. Noah's faith was rewarded – our faith will be rewarded if we endure unto the end.

Conclusion:

1. These are wonderful lessons about this man called Noah – who believed God and acted on that faith, accompanied by fear – and he became “an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.”
2. God doesn't ask me to build an ark – my family is sold thankful of that!
3. God doesn't ask you to build an ark – but He asks you to listen to His Son, Jesus Christ – and obey Him, that you might become an “heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.”