

Relationship with God is a Relationship of Faith

Hebrews 11:1-7

- I. I thought God wanted “good” people... what I found *in scripture* is that God is looking in a man or a woman for faith! (II Chronicles 16:9 – “For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His.”)

- II. What is faith?
 - a. **Hebrews 11:1** “...the assurance of things hoped for; the conviction of things not seen”
 - b. **Hebrews 11:2** “people of old earned a good reputation” (...obtained God’s approval)
 - c. **Hebrews 11:3** - Creation

- III. Example of faith- **Hebrews 11:4-7**
 - a. **Hebrews 11:4**
 - b. Abel – We do not know much about Abel. What we do know is that God accepted Abel and his offering and so it is implied that he was a man of faith because it was through faith that the people of old gained God’s approval.

 - c. **Hebrews 11:5**
 - d. Enoch – Equally, we do not know much about Enoch except that the scripture says, “he walked with God and God took Him.” Again the implication is that since it is by faith that the men of old gained God’s approval, Enoch was a man of faith.

 - e. **Hebrews 11:6** – Looking back on the previous examples

 - f. **Hebrews 11:7**
 - g. Noah – we do know about Noah.
 - i. It was by faith that Noah obeyed God and built an ark. He had “the assurance of things hoped for: the conviction of things not seen.” Noah had never seen it rain much less flood. He acted against his experience and knowledge of the known world (*what he had seen or felt) and did what God wanted.

ii. Obedience –

1. **“Churchless”** thoughts Pg. 168... “In a society where personal choice and independence are among the most esteemed values, why would someone participate in communal church life? Why should anyone devote precious time, energy, money, and loyalty to a Christian church? (Their conclusion) If we hope to stem the swelling tide of churchless adults, we must make a compelling case for the value of the church.

2. I am not sure we can answer this satisfactorily because that would require a self-centered answer, one that makes sense in a self-oriented world. “Church is good for you because...” is not a real answer but rather a simple “obedience to God” has to be enough! “God commanded us to gather” must be enough. Yes, we will benefit but the benefit may not always be readily understood or perceived. After all, this is a walk of faith.

IV. Noah - obeyed God in faith. It possibly took Noah over 100 years to build the boat. That is a longtime to wait to see the fulfillment of something one has never experienced. No wonder Noah is an example of faith for us!