

(2 hours)

Title: Faith Results In Action

Text: Hebrews 11:4-6

Take your Bibles and turn to the book of Hebrews. Hebrews chapter 11. I will begin where I left off last Sunday. Hebrews chapter 11 beginning with Vs 4....

(Read Hebrews 11:4-6)

Prayer

Last Sunday, we studied verse 1 thru 3. And in these verses we have a short explanation of faith. Now, faith is not being defined, here. But faith is being explained as to how it works and operates. In fact, chapter 11 is telling us what will happen in a persons life if he really has faith. HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT A PERSON HAS FAITH?....ANSWER : He will do something to deminstrate that faith.

Vs 2 says: "By it"...referring to Faith..."By faith, the elders gained a good report." WHAT IS THAT TALKING ABOUT? Well, the elders are all the people mentioned in Hebrews chapter 11. This hall of fame. These famous ancestors. And it is in the realm of faith that these ~~men~~^{men} are being testified to that they really were men of faith. And the only way you can know that is because of a positive thing they did which deminstrated that they really had faith. And that is the only way that we know that you and I have faith. We know we have faith if we acturally do something that proves that we have faith. Words are empty without action. To say you believe in God's leading without stepping out and doing something is really not faith. Faith to be real~~ly~~ must be observalbe. There is something that we acturally experience. There are present realitites....And faith will cause that in your life.

(2C) Now, let me show you how this works by looking at ~~a couple of examples.~~

(BD) in Vs 4, we have the first example of faith. The example of Abel .

We read, "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."

Now, looking at this example of Abel, I want you to see three things:
(1) Number one, His sacrifice. The Bible says that Abel gave a better sacrifice than Cain. To understand this, let us turn back to Gen. chapter 4. There is a problem here that I want you to understand. Turn to Genesis chapter 4. This is the story of Cain and Abel.....(READ Gen. 4:1-8)

/ People read this and say: "According to Gen. 4:2 Abel kept sheep; and Cain was a tiller of the ground. ~~And~~ wasn't God being a little unfair." After all, Cain brought of his employment an offering. And Abel brought of his employment an offering. Cain was not a keeper of sheep. He was a tiller of the ground. So, wasn't God being a little unfair when it says in Hebrews 11:4 that Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain?

To answer that question there are two things you should know.

(1) First of all, many feel that God has already revealed the plan of sacrifice. That is animal sacrifice. And the argument would go something like this: When Adam and Eve sinned in the garden, before God clothed them they tried to cloth themselves with fig leaves. But, when God clothed them, He clothed them with animal skins. Therefore, that indicates animal sacrifice. So, blood sacrifice was established by God from the beginning of the time of Adam and Eve.

And dear friends, there is good reason to believe that because if you argue that animal sacrifice began with Moses, what do you do with Gen. 22? In Gen. 22 Abraham offered Isaac on the altar. And God said to him, "I will provide a lamb for myself." So, you see, the principle of animal sacrifice was known, already, to Abraham. Yet, he lived some 700 years before Moses.

So, it isn't wrong to conclude that God established the principle of sacrifice in the Garden of Eden when He clothed Adam and Eve in animal skins.
(2) The second thing you should know deals with the teaching of Hebrews 11: namely faith. The problem with Cain, perhaps not only in the fact that he didn't have the right sacrifice, but even if he did and God would have accepted the grain offering, the real issue in Cain's life was that he had no faith and confidence in God.

Dear friends, that is the reall issue...then...as well as now...

~~...the right sacrifice, but ... and God would have~~
 (Gen 4:6)
~~accepted it ... the real issue is ... that he had~~
 (Gen 4:7)
~~... then, as well as now.~~

And this brings up an interesting point: No matter if the thing being requested was O.K., even if we brought an animal, but had no faith in what God revealed, it would not do us one bit of good. *That is the point*

~~and~~ *and*? That is true all the way through the Bible. Even concerning the animals sacrificed in the O.T. God said: "I don't require animal sacrifices. The blood of bulls and goats never took away sin. It is my faith in God's plan and in God's revelation, ~~...~~, that

takes away sin. That it is by death that there is substitution made for my sin. Which leads us to Christ who died for us. It is faith in that act of Christ on the cross for our sins that saves us. If we don't have faith in what Christ did for us on ~~calvary~~ *The Cross*, we will never be saved. ~~...~~

well, it is important to understand this. ~~That~~ the reason why Abel's offering was better than Cain's was because he had faith. That is the point of Hebrews 11:4. Cain, you see, had no faith.

And even if you accept the historical fact of Christ's death, but have no faith in the meaning and purpose of that death, it is no good.

You see, ~~you~~ *you* can do all the religious things that you think are important. And ~~Christians~~ *people* often do this, and then they hope that they will be accepted by God. But, dear friends, if you don't have faith in what God's plan is concerning salvation, you will not be saved....PERIOD...NO MATTER HOW MANY GOOD THINGS YOU DO IN THE COMMUNITY....

Now, let's come back to Hebrews 11:4. So, in the case of Abel as to his sacrifice, it was based upon faith and that is why it was better than Cain's....

(2E) The second thing relates to His standing before God. Vs 4 says: "through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous."

Remember what I said about all these examples. These men did something to prove that they were men of faith. And faith, therefore, witnessed to them. O.K...WHAT DID ABEL DO?...He offered the sacrifice.... That was something that was tangible....something visible. And the Bible says through that exercise of faith, he obtained the testimony that he was righteous.

omit
By the way, the word "testify" or "witness to" means "that God was doing it. Abel wasn't witnessing to his own faith. God witnessed to his faith that he is righteous."

And I find this to be *a tremendous* ~~an interesting~~ principle. Because the Bible teaches that the only way you and I can be righteous is that God has to declare or pronounce us righteous. And God's pronouncement is based upon something ~~He did~~ *that we accept*. Not on something we did. NONE OF US ARE DECLARED RIGHTEOUS BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN GOOD OR THAT WE HAVE DONE THE RIGHT THING.

We are declared righteous because of something Christ did at the Cross. And, dear friends, when we believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sins, that he really arose from the dead, when we believe that, *then* God declares us righteous. And that is *a tremendous* ~~an important~~ principle to remember. *and that carries on the life*

(3E) The third thing about Abel deals with his ~~see~~ speaking to us today.

The last part of Vs 4 says: "Through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks."

A simple point which is quite obvious: God is speaking to our hearts through the example of Abel. Jesus said: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

What a sad commentary if you were to read this and hear this and *get* not hear the voice of God speaking to you. *though* FAITH WILL ALWAYS PROVE ITSELF IN ACTION...ALWAYS...OR, IT IS NOT THE FAITH OF THE BIBLE.

As James rightly concludes: "Faith without works....That is the works that are demonstrated by faith. Not the works of the Mosaic law. Because ~~if~~ faith without that fruit or evidence is dead. And Abel is an example to us.

God told Abel to bring a blood sacrifice. Abel ~~did~~ brought the sacrifice
~~And by the way, because Abel was killed by Cain, he didn't have a long time to demonstrate that faith, did he?~~ *And* in one moment of time Abel proved he was a man of faith..... *He believed God. And it was how faith in Christ*
(STEP) We will do what He tells us to do

Look at The

(2D) Now, let's come to the second example. In Verse 5-6 we have the example of Enoch. And the thing that Enoch did is kind-off interesting. The text doesn't really give us a specific, except that he walked with God, That he pleased God. That he had this testimony, and then God actually ~~translated him.~~ ^{Took him To Heaven} Now, let me try and explain this passage to you.

(1E) First of all, let's understand his translation. WHAT IS THAT? The Bible says that ~~E~~noch was taken up or translated. So, that he should not see death.

Now, the word "translation" is not taking about going from one language to another. As we would translate a book from Greek to English. But, it is sneaking about literally being removed from one place to another. The word means "to be moved" or "transfere to another location."

So, Enoch was transfered from the location of earth to being with God in heaven.