

Persevering Faith Pleases God • Part 1

Lesson Forty • Hebrews 11:4-7

Hebrews 11 | *Persevering Faith Keeps Moving Forward to God's Future Salvation!*

DEFINITION
of Persevering Faith (1-3)

DEMONSTRATION
of Persevering Faith (4-38)

DESTINATION
of Persevering Faith (39-40)

Hebrews 11:1-3 is a **PRACTICAL** definition to *motivate, illustrate, and activate persevering faith* in apathetic believers and potential apostates!

Live by Persevering Faith According to the Pre-Flood PROGRESSION. (11:4-7)

Live by Persevering Faith According to the Habakkuk 2:4 PATTERN. (10:38-39)

"But My righteous one shall live by faith; and if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him."

Persevering Faith Pleases God

1. Persevering Faith **WORSHIPS** God Sacrificially like Abel.

"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." (v. 4)

Abel's Background in Genesis 4:1-8

Why Begin with Abel and Not Adam and Eve?

- First believer to **NOT** know God before the Fall.
- First believer to **OFFER** blood sacrifices in worship.
- First believer to be **MARTYRED** for his faith in worship.

Why Was Abel's Sacrificial Worship Better than Cain's?

- By faith Abel's heart **ATTITUDE** in worship was *better*. (v. 6; Romans 14:23; Galatians 5:6)

*"By faith Abel offered to God a **better sacrifice** than Cain..."*

What God and What Promises? Genesis 3:15, 21; 4:6, 9

- By faith Abel's sacrificial **ACTS** of worship were *better*. (Genesis 4:3-5; Hebrews 11:4)

"No, the offerings were different, and in that difference we see the faith of one and the unbelief of the other." – Richard Phillips

What Made Abel's Sacrificial Gifts Better and Greater?

By faith Abel gave a **BLOOD** sacrifice with the **FIRST** and **BEST** parts!

What Was the Result Abel's Sacrificial Worship?

*"through [faith] he **obtained the testimony** that he was **righteous**, **God testifying** about his gifts, and **through faith**, though he is dead, he **still speaks**."*

- By faith Abel received God's witness that he was **RIGHTEOUS**.
- By faith Abel still **LIVES** and **SPEAKS** to us in the Bible about how sacrificial worship by persevering faith pleases God. (10:18; 9:19-25; 13:15-16; Romans 12:1-2)

2. Persevering Faith **WALKS** with God Relationally Like Enoch.

*"By faith Enoch was **taken up** so that he would not see death; and he was not found because God **took him up**; for he obtained the witness that before his being **taken up** he was **pleasing** to God." (v.5)*

Enoch's Background in Genesis 5:21-24

Observations

1. Hebrews 11:5 emphasizes that Enoch was "**TAKEN UP**" (3x) directly into God's presence!
 - What a *privilege* for Enoch.
 - What a *contrast* with Abel.
 - What a *hope* for all who persevere through persecution or suffering.
2. The Greek Old Testament (LXX) translates: "Enoch was **PLEASING** to God" for "walking with God."

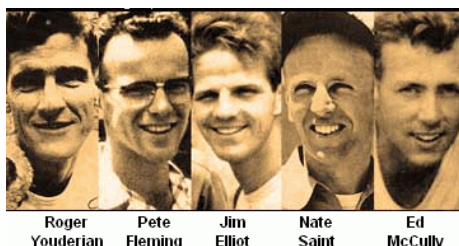
Persevering Faith Pleases God by Walking with God

- Walk with God in a relational manner that **PLEASES** Him with righteous living.
- Walk with God in a manner that **PERSEVERES** with a long obedience in the right direction. *Genesis 5:21-24; Jude 14-15*

The Principle: Persevering Faith Pleases God!

"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."

- Believe in the **REALITY** of who God is.
*for he who **comes to = draws near to** God must believe that He is*
- Believe in the gracious **GENEROSITY** of God
He is a rewarder of those who seek Him."



"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." – Martyr Jim Elliot

"Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who draws near to God must believe that He is and that He is the Rewarder of those who seek Him!"



OVERVIEW of HEBREWS Chapter 11

Persevering Faith Keeps Moving Forward to God's Future Salvation!

DEFINITION of Persevering Faith 11:1-3	DEMONSTRATION of Persevering Faith 11:4-38	DESTINATION of Persevering Faith 11:39-40
<p>DEFINED for ALL BELIEVERS You Must Persevere & Not Shrink Back!</p> <p>Faith in God's future, unseen realities is what you need and must have! (v. 1)</p> <p>For this kind of persevering faith is what God requires and approves! (v. 2)</p> <p>DISPLAYED in CREATION Where Persevering Must Take Place!</p> <p>The seen world was prepared by the unseen Word out of nothing! Creation frames our worldview and functions as the stage to display persevering faith for God's glory. (v. 3)</p> <p><i>Keep moving forward in light of God's spoken, future realities and in sight of His spoken, unseen realities for this pleases Him! He will save those who do by His powerful, spoken Final Word – His Son!</i> (cf. 1:1-4)</p> <p>To MOTIVATE, ILLUSTRATE, and ACTIVATE your faith, here's what it looks like...</p>	<p>PRE-FLOOD: Abel – Enoch – Noah By persevering faith in the unseen My righteous ones live and please Me! (vv. 4-7; 10:38-39; Habakkuk 2:3-4)</p> <p>PATRIARCHS: Abraham – Sarah – Isaac – Jacob – Joseph By persevering faith Abraham and his seed sojourned in the present as strangers in hope of God's promised future! (vv. 8-22)</p> <p>PROPHET-MEDIATOR: Moses By persevering faith Moses chose to forsake temporary riches and suffer the reproach of Christ, because he kept looking forward to God's eternal reward and kept seeing Him who is unseen! (vv. 23-28)</p> <p>POWERFUL EXODUS & CONQUEST: Israel – Rahab the Harlot By persevering faith Israel passed through Red Sea and the walls of Jericho fell. But by persevering faith Rahab the harlot did not perish, because she welcomed the spies, seeing the unseen God and heeding His warning of coming judgment and His promise of future salvation! (vv. 29-31)</p> <p>PERSEVERING to ESCAPE or ENDURE: Many Men & Women By persevering faith many known and unknown men and women either escaped from or endured through persecution. This world is not worthy of them, but God is not ashamed to be their God! (vv. 32-38; cf. 2:22; 11:16)</p>	<p>DESTINATION Was Delayed!</p> <p>God was pleased with the persevering faith of OT believers, but they didn't receive what was promised! (v. 39)</p> <p>PERFECTION Is Required!</p> <p>God's progressive creation/kingdom plan requires that OT believers must wait to be made perfect with NT believers by Jesus the Trailblazer and Perfector of all persevering faith! (v. 40; 12:1-3, 18-24)</p> <p>Therefore, surrounded by these witnesses, LET US RUN with perseverance...STAYING FIXATED on JESUS! (12:1-3)</p>

The Hall of Faith will *motivate, illustrate, and activate* persevering faith in *apathetic believers and potential apostates!*

Apathetic, anxious, suffering, and/or tempted believers will be motivated to keep moving forward by the many examples of persevering faith. Such faith is necessary for pleasing God, reaching our final destination of perfection, and not shrinking back!

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Overview of Hebrews 11:4-38 | Demonstration of Persevering Faith!

GODLY INDIVIDUALS EXERCISING FAITH (4-31)	GREAT DEEDS of ESCAPE and ENDURANCE (32-38)
<p>GENESIS 4– JOSHUA 6</p> <p>PRE-FLOOD: Abel – Enoch – Noah</p> <p>PATRIARCHS: Abraham – Sarah – Isaac – Jacob – Joseph</p> <p>PROPHET-MEDIATOR: Moses</p> <p>POWERFUL EXODUS & CONQUEST: Israel – Rahab the Harlot</p>	<p>CONQUEST to CHRIST</p> <p>PERSEVERING to ESCAPE or ENDURE: Many Men & Women</p> <p>Named (Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel) & Many Unnamed Judges, Kings, Prophets</p> <p>Known & Unknown, Men & Women, Jews & Gentiles, Young and Old, Warriors and Widows</p> <p>Escaping or Enduring Death of Whom This World Was Not Worthy</p>
<p>“By faith” – 17x (vv. 4-5, 7-9, 11, 17, 20-24, 27-31; Gk. Πίστει)</p> <p>“through (faith)” – 1x (v. 4; Gk. δι’ αὐτῆς)</p> <p>“without faith” – 1x (v. 6; Gk. χωρὶς πίστεως)</p> <p>“in faith” – 1x (v. 13; Gk. Κατὰ πίστιν)</p>	<p>“through faith” – 1x (v. 33; Gk. διὰ πίστεως)</p>

This long list of Old Testament “elders” are *examples* of persevering faith for our *encouragement* and *imitation*! Their persevering faith *substantiates* the declaration in 10:37-39, *illustrates* the definition in 11:1-3, and is the *foundation* for the exhortation in 12:1-3. The conclusion in 11:39-40 *elucidates* the connection between the covenants and the perfection of OT and NT believers in Jesus!

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