

Faith Is Not Static But Dynamic

Hebrews 11:6-7 & Genesis 6:5-14

What do I mean that faith is not static?

Well, first of all the word static means: lacking in movement, action, or change, especially in a way viewed as undesirable or uninteresting. Thus faith can't be lacking movement, action or change.

Faith has to be dynamic; it is characterized by activity, or progress.

Dynamic faith is faith that is real, faith that has power, and faith that results in a changed life.

For a believer faith is simply taking God at His Word and to live and act on that word.

Faith is not wishful longing that something may come to pass in an uncertain tomorrow. But rather, true faith is an absolute certainty, often of things that the world considers unreal and impossible.

Hebrews 11:1 says, *“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”* Faith is living in a hope that is so real it gives absolute assurance. The promises that were given to the Old Testament believers were so real to them, because they believed God and they based their lives on them.

“Faith does not operate in the realm of the possible. There is no glory for God in that which is humanly possible. Faith begins where man's power ends.” (George Muller)

If we follow a God whose audible voice we have not heard and believe in a Christ whose face we have not seen, we do so because our faith has a reality, a substance, an assurance that is unshakable. In doing so, Jesus said we are specially blessed.

Example of Thomas

Jesus says to Thomas: *“Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”* (John 20:29)

Thomas wanted empirical evidence – Jesus said to him *“Stop doubting and believe.”* And Jesus went further and said, *“Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.”*

True faith always has actions to support its claim.

All the heroes of faith listed in Hebrews 11 proved their genuine faith by something they did. *“Faith without works is dead”* (James 2:26).

“Faith and works should travel side by side, step answering to step, like the legs of men walking. First faith, and then works; and then faith again, and then works again -- until they can scarcely distinguish which is the one and which is the other.” (William Booth)

Noah

Now, Noah was a man of faith, and his life continually showed his faith by his utter obedience to God. In Genesis 6:9 we read, *“Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God.”*

He worshiped God faithfully as Abel had, and he walked with God faithfully, as Enoch had. He also worked for God faithfully. Noah's relationship with God was intimate & personal.

He had a deep reverence and respect for God. It says that he built the ark in holy fear for God.

Hebrews 11:7, *“By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.”* (Heb. 11:7)

I would like to focus on 4 things Noah did in exercising his faith in God and that His faith was not static but dynamic.

1. Noah Took God at His Word

Noah believed the message without doubt and staked everything on it—his reputation, his very life. Noah responded to God’s word – he believed it and acted on it.

Nowhere does it mention that he questioned or doubted God’s Word. He rested everything he had on it. As a matter of fact, the Bible says that after he received God’s message, he dropped everything and started building the ark for 120 years. WOW! That’s what I call real living faith.

Faith rests completely on God’s Word. God cannot lie, He is absolutely trustworthy. Throughout Scripture and history God has always stood behind His Word. The question is: “Do you believe and stand on His word?”

By faith, Noah prepared an ark. He had nothing to go on but God’s Word.

2. Noah Took the Ridicule for His Faith

Noah most likely lived in Mesopotamia (Iraq), between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, a long way from the sea and any body of water. It must have been strange and embarrassing for someone to build a huge water vessel in the middle of dry land.

Can you imagine how people reacted to Noah’s outlandish building project? Could you imagine the mockery and ridicule?

Noah went against the crowd, He was all alone! The choice comes to every person either to listen to God or to disregard the message of God. At times you may look like a fool when you do God’s Will.

Example:

1/ John McArthur related a story his father once told him of a certain Christian man wearing a sandwich board walking up and down the sidewalk. The board said on the front *“I am a fool for Christ”* on the back it read, *“Whose fool are you?”*

3. Noah Did Not Give Up

True faith does not question, it obeys. Noah did not question God, he didn’t argue with God, he didn’t make excuses, nor did he complain nor procrastinate.

Noah had tremendous faith, his faith stands supreme, if for nothing else than the sheer magnitude and time span of his one incredible assignment from the Lord. To surrender all his time and energy to building a boat took a special kind of commitment.

-Noah was rewarded. He and his family were saved. God always rewards faith.

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.” (Heb. 11:6)

Noah’s family was blessed by his faith. Your family can be blessed by your faith, even if you are the only believer in your family.

“For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband.” (1 Corinthians 7:14)

4. Noah Warned the World

Noah's obedience included his passing on to the rest of the world God's message of coming judgment. During 120 years Noah preached and warned the people of his day.

In 2 Peter 2:5 we read, *"If he (God) did not spare the ancient world when He brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others..."*

Noah's audience was not very receptive. God called Noah to preach while he built.

*The preaching was probably more difficult than the building.

*Hard jobs are always easier to deal with than hard people.

The times of Noah were among the most evil and corrupt in history.

In Genesis 6:5 it says, *"The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time."*

Noah's task and mission was to warn the people that God would soon judge them because of their evil and unbelief. They had 120 years of preaching – enough warning!

The difference between Noah and everyone around him was not a difference in the amount of light but a difference in response to it.

1 Peter 3:20 *"God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water."*

In other words, at the same time God was preparing judgment He was also preparing a way of escape. The ark was huge; it had room for those who wanted to believe.

Ark dimensions were: 1½ times the length of a football field and more than 4 stories high.

The people of Noah's time had no excuse. When the flood came the door of the ark was closed and shut by God. This was an indication that the opportunity for salvation was over.

2 Corinthians 6:2 *"I tell you, now is the time of God's favour, now is the day of salvation."*

In other words, "Don't put it off!" Today if you hear God's voice speaking to you, respond. Tomorrow may be too late.

Conclusion

Faith requires obedience to God's Word. For 120 years Noah preserved and never gave up. Perhaps the saddest lesson from Noah's day is that people have not changed in their attitude toward God since then and till now.

Jesus warns us in Matthew 24 that just as it was in Noah's time it will also be toward the end of the age.

"As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man." (Matt. 24:37-39)

They went about their daily routines of eating and drinking and of marrying and giving in marriage. It was business as usual until the day Noah entered the ark and it started to rain.

The people were so untouched by God's truth that they did not take Noah's warning to heart. Their hearts were hardened by sin's deceitfulness (Heb. 3:12-13). Noah spent 120 years building and preaching, yet with having any effect on anyone outside his family. The people were so untouched by God's truth that they did not understand their perilous situation until the flood came and took them away into a godless eternity.

The parallels of Noah's day to our own are sobering. In Noah's day, God's message of warning was rejected, as it is today by many.

2 Peter 3:3-4 *"First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing & following their own evil desires. They will say, 'Where is this 'coming' he promised...?'"*

Finally

Faith is not a blind leap—nor is it reckless. Faith is not static. It is believing in God's word and acting upon it. Noah stood against all odds. He would rather believe in God than what the majority of people said. Faith is surrendering yourself completely to God and to trust him with all your life. It is in trusting him more than what your circumstance dictates to you.