

Common Men of Uncommon Faith

(Hebrews 11:1-7)

Introduction: Functioning somewhat like a Reader's Digest condensed version of the Old Testament, Hebrews 11 recounts biblical history through common men and women who demonstrated uncommon faith—faith that perplexed the people around them but that pleased the God above them.

I. A Brief, Simple Analysis of Faith

- A) Before the writer documents the journey of the faithful, he defines the faith which made that journey possible in the first place (Hebrews 11:1).
- B) Faith is not a blind leap in the dark; it's more like the sure step of a trusting child toward the loving arms of its mother.
- C) The simplicity of childlike faith is described for us (Heb. 11:6; cf. Matt. 18:1-4; 21:14-15).
- D) The steps to pleasing God are as simple as the baby steps of a toddler.
 1. First, we _____ to God.
 2. Second, we _____ He's there.
 3. Third, we _____ on Him to keep His Word.

II. Three Plain, Common Examples of Faith

- A) Those who stepped out in Hebrews 11 weren't fully grown and mature in faith.
- B) A Shepherd named _____ (Hebrews 11:4; Genesis 4).
 1. Abel obeyed. Cain, however, chose to offer the work of his hands.
 2. Cain came to God by _____ way; Abel came _____ way.
 3. Cain was sincere. But sincerity is no substitute for obedience.
 4. It's in our nature to want to come to God in our own way, on our own terms, with the offering of our own good works. But that is not God's way (Hebrews 9:11-14).
- C) A Preacher Named _____ (Hebrews 11:5; Jude 1:14-15).
 1. Publicly, he proclaimed a message that he wicked generation resented and resisted (Genesis 5:21-24).
 2. We don't know much but, we do know that his faith, which kept him in step with God and out of step with his wayward generation, pleased the Father.
- D) A Builder Named _____ (Hebrews 11:7; Genesis 6:8-9).
 1. Yet, Noah obeyed the instructions of God (Genesis 6:22; 7:5, 9, 16).
 2. Noah acted in faith, believing God's word over the public opinion polls.

III. Two Direct, Relevant Applications of Faith

- A) Abel, Enoch and Noah.
 1. All _____ men, people just like you and me.
 2. Each with an _____ faith.
 - (a) By faith, Abel came God's _____.
 - (b) By faith, Enoch proclaimed God's _____.
 - (c) Noah fulfilled God's _____.
- B) How about your life?
- C) Whether you're making an offering to God, speaking out on His behalf, or obeying His Word, God looks for one thing—faith.
- D) A faith that is willing to step out no matter how weak its toddling steps. And a faith that seeks the arms of God rather than the embrace of this world.

Conclusion: Is your approach to God based on His way or is it according to yours?

My Notes: