

STEP BY STEP

The Key Words are "BY FAITH". Heb. 11:4, 10, 25, 33.

This is a great chapter of helpfulness, upon the important subject of faith. It has been called the Westminster Abbey of God's faithful. Presented in this chapter is:---

Faith to live by and Faith to die by; seen in the different characters standing out in Fact and Figure, showing the perfect plan of the progressive Christian life. The Word of God shows very clearly that every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ

By Faith is "Saved"--Eph. 2:8 "For by grace are ye saved through faith".

By Faith "Lives"--Heb. 10:38 "Now the just shall live by faith".

By Faith "Walks"--II Cor. 5:7 "For we walk by faith and not by sight".

By Faith "Overcomes"--I John 5:4 "And this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith".

By Faith You start the Christian life. Justified by faith and then enter the school of faith.

By faith You are carried through the Christian life.

Therefore, start right and then continue right.

Four characters I wish to bring before you:---

1. Abel who offered --Heb. 11:4
2. Abraham who looked--Heb. 11:10
3. Moses who suffered--Heb. 11:25
4. Daniel who stopped--Heb. 11:33

I. The Faith That Saves. --Abel Offered--vs. 4

Two others are coupled with Abel whose faith saved them,--Enoch and Noah.

Abel --- was troubled by what he found within

Enoch -- was troubled by what he saw around.

Noah --- was trouble by what he heard was coming.

Not by accident but by faith they were moved.

Faith lighted Abel's altar:

Faith enabled Enoch to walk with God

Faith encouraged Noah to build the Ark.

The result of which we see that:---

Abel obtained--Right relations with God

Enoch obtains--A wonderful translation by God

Noah obtained--Salvation from the judgment of God

No doubt to Abel light had been revealed. He had no doubt heard the story of God's action against sin, the ineffectiveness of fig leaf aprons, and how by the sacrifice of a sinless victim God clothed Adam and Eve. Abel hearing this saw and learned God's mind and way of approach and intercourse to end with Himself, built an altar and offered His Lamb, and on the ground of the offered Lamb was accepted and brought into right relations with God. Heb. 11:4 calls Abel's sacrifice Excellent. Why? It was an excellent sacrifice because:---

1. The Acknowledgement of Sin was in it.
2. The Lord Jesus in Figure was in it.
3. The Shedding of Blood was in it.
4. Faith was in it.

Salvation by Faith is just the same today. The outcome (where exercised) means--Agreement with God; Translation by God, and Safety in God. The Blood of the Offered Lamb is the Foundation of all.

II. The Faith That Sees--Abraham Looked--vs. 10

He looked for a city. He was a man with a telescope peering into the future. He was not one of those who said, I am making the best of both worlds. I am afraid we have far too many of these. No, he was wholehearted for God. After years of idolatry the God of Glory appeared unto him and from that time the course of his life was altered and his outlook changed entirely. He turned his back upon "Ur" (that city of gods) and began to look by faith for a City whose builder and maker was God, confessing himself a Pilgrim and Stranger in the earth. Notice the ways Abraham looked:---

1. He looked BACK once--Gen. 22:13 "Offering Isaac looked back and saw a ram"
2. He looked Up once--Gen. 15:5 Looked toward heaven to the number of stars and was promised seed according to that number.
3. He looked On once--John 8:56 /To see the day of Jesus and saw it.
4. He looked All Around once--Gen. 13:14 After separation from Lot told to look all four directions and what he was to be his and posterity.

This is the Faith that sees and claims what God promises.

BY FAITH ABRAHAM-- When called to go out to a place which he would later receive as an inheritance. He obeyed and went out:--

1. He did not know WHERE-- Heb. 11:8 "Not knowing whither he went"
2. He did not know HOW -- Heb. 11:11
3. He did not know WHY -- Heb. 11:17

III. The Faith That Suffers--Moses Suffered--vs. 25

Moses "Chose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season." Moses' Faith was like an X-Ray. It had a Penetrating Power. It gave him the power to see through a things. He was a man of purpose as well as power, and the pleasures, measures, and treasures of Pharaoh's Court had no weight with him. Moses said, I will identify myself with the people of God rather than accept honors of the world.

Suffering instead of Sin.

Reproach instead of Riches.

Practice instead of Pleasure

Christ instead of Worldly Course.

The secret being he saw Him that was Invisible. Fix your eye there and everything else will pale. The Faith that suffers will enable everyone to sum up and measure things, and instead of seeking the pleasures of sin which are only for a season will seek the pleasures found in the Man at God's Right Hand which are for evermore in fulness of Joy. See Psalm 16:11

IV. The Faith That Stands--Daniel Stopped The Mouths Of Lions--vs. 33

What a grand thing to overcome by Daring Faith. The Book of Daniel teaches this for we have:--

Victory over self--Chapter 1.

Victory over Fear of Death--2

Victory over False Religion--3

Victory over Fear of Man----4

Victory over the World-----5

Victory over Society-----6

Without doubt the secret of Daniel's life was Faith and Prayer. This made him,--an enlightened, a separated, a useful, and a preserved man. His antidote against all opposition of his day was his windows--Daniel 6:10. Knowing all that was going on--The Writing and Signing--

1. Went into his house--withdrew from the world

2. He opened his windows--Let God come in

3. Towards Jerusalem--Another sphere for the heart--His home.

4. As aforetime--continual practice for seventy years--not fits and starts but continual practice.

Faith and Prayer can make you stand even though you may be confronted by lawyers and lions. By Faith you can stand and they will be stopped. Daniel is a Model for Young Christians. Daniel:--

1. Purposed rightly
2. Believed brightly
3. Acted politely
4. Walked uprightly
5. Held the truth tightly
6. Held men's opinions lightly
7. Prayed boldly, morn, noon, nightly
8. Shone for the Lord brightly

GO AND DO THOU LIKEWISE

Here is something to think about----

"The Safest Night Daniel Spent
He Spent In the Lions' Den."

By faith he stopped the mouths of lions.

The God who lived in Abel's day

The God who lived in Abraham's day

The God who lived in Moses' day

The God who lived in Daniel's day

IS JUST THE SAME TODAY

Will YOU put Him to the test --BY FAITH?

What faith is:---

1. Soul's eye which must be fixed on Christ
2. Soul's hand to lay hold upon Christ
3. Soul's mouth to feed upon Christ
4. Soul's foot with which to go to Christ.