

Faith Decisions

6-1-25

Hebrews 11:4 (NIV)

By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead.

Having died for his faithfulness, Abel by example continues to speak the message of dedicated faith. We can't be sure why Cain's offering fell short, but we know from Genesis that God spoke to both Abel and Cain and they each had faith decisions to make. Likewise, we have faith decisions to make. Now God brings our attention to another preflood hero, Enoch.

Hebrews 11:5 (NIV)

By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death: "He could not be found, because God had taken him away." For before he was taken, he was praised as one who pleased God.

Enoch's faith pleased God so much that HE took him to heaven without him experiencing death. (Genesis 5:24). I believe this is an OT example of the NT rapture of believers before the End Times.

1Thessalonians 4:17 (NIV)

We who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so, we will be with the Lord forever.

Significate to note that both Abel and Enoch are in heaven. One caught up and one suffered death. Next, we have the examples of Noah and Abrham who made faith decisions. By faith Noah, when warned ... built. By faith Abraham, when called ... went. In verse 11, we see Sarah's faith decision, "By faith Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered God faithful who had made the promise." She believed what God told her.

Faith has everything to do with our mindset. God shows us the heart felt belief of Abraham and the other Heroes of the faith.

Hebrews 11:10, 13, 16 (NIV) NO/OH

For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. They only saw them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth.

They were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

We need a heavenly mindset and heavenly purpose to live by faith. We see this clearly with Moses. He had at his finger tips all the treasures of the world. Yet he was looking for a greater reward.

Hebrews 11:24-27 (NIV) NO/OH

²⁴By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. ²⁵He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. ²⁶He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

²⁷Moses persevered because he saw him who is invisible.

By faith the most stunning, eye-popping miracles of the Bible were done by God through Moses. We have the same God as Moses. We need to have the same mindset as Moses. Also, we should persevere because we also see HIM who is invisible.

As people of faith, we make decisions of faith.

Hebrews 11:29 (NIV) NO/OH

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.

God is speaking to us. The most destitute and sinful person can hear God, embrace faith, believe, and be rewarded.

Hebrews 11:31 (NIV)

By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.

In Matthew 1:5, Rahab, the Gentile prostitute, is recorded in the line of Christ. Rahab was David's great, great, great, grandmother. These heroes of faith had an eternal view. Verse 35 tells us that many withstood tortures knowing they would gain a better resurrection and heavenly reward. In verse 38, God tells us that the world was not even worthy of them. Yet as we read of these heroes of faith, God says HE has something better for us.

Hebrews 11:40 (NIV)

God has planned something better for us so that only together with us would these heroes be made perfect.

God is telling us today that HE has something greater for us, better than anything that these heroes of the faith received. Be Alert!

Isaiah 66:2 (ESV)

This is the one to whom I will look:
he who is humble and contrite in spirit
and trembles at MY WORD.

Our faith decisions are based on God's WORD!

1Thessalonians 2:13 (NIV) NO/OH

You received the WORD of God, which you heard from us, and you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the WORD of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.

Make Faith Decisions!

Acts 16:31 (ESV)

Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.