

Faithful Ones

Abel

Enoch

Abraham

Sarah

Rahab

Mary

What Is Faith?

“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”

Hebrews 11:1

What Is Faith?

“The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It’s our handle on what we can’t see.”

Hebrews 11:1 (The Message)

How do we have faith in
what we cannot see?

“In a world where truth is devalued, the moral and political stakes that humans have in the contest of ideas is reduced to shadow play. There is no core of truth to which humans can anchor themselves so as to invest their lives with the wider significance of common, shared and universal meaning.”

“Let us not lose heart. Truth survives time. Pontius Pilate prevented Jesus Christ from answering his question but, in the process, a lasting religious revolution arrived in human history. And no one would remember Pilate washing his hands were it not for the truth that stuck to his fingers.”

Romans 8:24-25

“²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.”

It is through living out our faith
on a daily basis and through
successive faith building
experiences that our faith will
grow.

Hebrews 11:2

“This is what the ancients were commended for.”

- Will we be commended for our faith?
- Will our faith be the distinguishing hallmark that sets us above the crowd?

Faithful Ones #1 - Abel

Abel

- First man of faith
- He was the first man who exercised faith in what he did not see.

Hebrews 11:4 (ESV)

“By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts.”

Genesis 4:3

“In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord.”

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- Fixed ritual of worship

Cain brought a more token offering but Abel brought the best of the lot.

Genesis 4:6-7

“⁶ Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? ⁷ If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.””

True worship is about following what God has defined and not following our own rules of what we think is acceptable.

Worship is our expression of how much our faith means to us, the fullness of our hope and the assurance of our salvation.

What is the cost of your sacrifice
to the Lord?

Romans 12:1

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God - this is your true and proper worship.”

Abel

- First martyr
- Genuine faith always carries with it a price.
- Faith always goes against the flow.

“And by faith Abel still speaks,
even though he is dead.”

What Is Abel Saying To Us?

1) Abel as a foreshadow of Jesus Christ

- *"to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel." – Hebrews 12:24*

2) We have to choose who we will be - Abel or Cain?

- *"Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous." – 1 John 3:12*