

## The Witness of Faith Series – Hebrews 11:1-7 – “The Elders’ Witness”

Intro: We have seen that the gospel has a legal/forensic core in the person and work of Christ under the law for righteousness through faith in a new grace covenant promised in the scriptures. The objective element of our faith resides in this legal gospel core promise which communicates a subjective conviction/assurance/trust/rest to believers about the grace/mercy/love of God in Christ. This gospel legal core includes many riches in Christ communicated to the believer by the witness of faith.

- 1) The witness of faith in the elders has a prophetic voice that testifies to God’s power. God’s power is hidden in the prophetic word of Christ, namely the gospel word of the cross. While our sinful nature seeks after the visible power of wisdom and signs, the kingdom is delivered by the foolish message/word/proclamation of the cross – i.e. death and resurrection.
- 2) The witness of faith in the elders reveals the invisible telos/end/goal of the things that are visible. Only the prophetic voice of Christ enables believers not only to receive the knowledge of creation but the person and purpose behind it in and through Christ. The prophetic voice of Christ delivers God’s knowledge in and through the gospel. The cross becomes the hermeneutical key to God’s knowledge or rather to knowing and being known.
- 3) The witness of faith in the elders to the redemptive prophetic voice of Christ humbles the fallen exalted creature to depend/believe/trust God’s word in and through Christ. Believers can only rise to life now through the humbling knowledge of their death and resurrection in union with Christ. Creation needs recreation/regeneration as delivered by gospel death and resurrection.
- 4) The witness of faith in the elders has a priestly voice in Abel who worships with a blood sacrifice of atonement. Abel’s offering testifies to Christ’s priestly role in consecrating all things to God through his redemptive offering sacrifice. Abel receives and gives the good priestly report of life consecrated/regenerated unto God through faith in the reconciliation of Christ’s offering.
- 5) The witness of faith in the elders has a kingly voice in Enoch’s deliverance from death/enemies to rule/reign/dwell with God. Enoch’s translation to God’s everlasting kingdom in victory over sin, death, the world, and Satan proclaims and advances Christ’s victorious kingdom.
- 6) The witness of faith in the elders testifies of the reward of children as co-heirs with Christ. God can only be pleased in the new graciously received status of adopted children through faith. The reward/inheritance of children is not a status to earn, achieve, or work but a position granted to us in and through the Son and Heir for us Christ Jesus.
- 7) The witness of faith in the elders testifies to God’s faithfulness in salvation to call, assemble, and keep a people, his elect, and his church. Noah together with his family testifies to being grace recipients who are saved through the waters of judgment where they also deserved to die. Their salvation in the ark from the flood waters testifies to our baptism/union with Christ’s death and resurrection.