

The Witness of Faith Series - Hebrews 11:6-10: **Why faith to please God?**

Intro: All that we have from God comes by way of gift and faith is the instrument to receive it. It is God's way of blessing us by grace alone, through Christ alone, and for His glory alone! How does God accomplish these things in our lives by faith? Why is faith the only way to please God?

- 1) Faith rests in God's character rather than our own character, person, feelings, and emotions. Noah and Abraham had their share of character flaws, sins, weaknesses, and fears but trusted the worthiness and faithfulness of God's character. Does my faith look to the Excellency of God's character as revealed in His attributes in Christ?
- 2) Faith seeks God as the giver and sustainer in Grace through His gifts. Noah and Abraham received gifts from God to preserve, provide, and save them. They were recipients of gifts of grace in the preservation/continuation of humankind for the progress of redemption. Does my faith look to God as the giver in grace of gifts I never deserve – especially, our salvation?
- 3) Faith believes God's Word because it expresses and accomplishes His sovereign plan/purposes rather than my own. Noah and Abraham both believed God and had their lives upended and altered by what God had said. Does my faith look to God's plans and purposes in Christ as good and ultimate even when it may conflict with my own plans, desires, or expectations?
- 4) Faiths trembles at God's mercy, rather than take it for granted, disregard, or neglect it. Noah and Abraham feared God who could very well destroy them but had chosen to save them. Does my faith deeply affect me with a sense of my unworthiness and yet profound gratitude before God?
- 5) Faith depends on God's provision rather than my own resources, abilities, works, strength, wisdom and/or reason. Noah and Abraham each had to depend on God's provision and build their lives upon it rather than their own. They had no boasting other than God's grace. Does my faith lead me to boast in God's provision in Christ rather than my own doing?
- 6) Faith hopes beyond earthly circumstances looking to God's eternal kingdom rather than hope in the temporal. Noah and Abraham were sustained by God's promises in Christ that still lay ahead in the future. Does my faith walk with a view to the future that transcends this present age amid trial and tribulations?
- 7) Faith enters the corporate fellowship of new creation in the church rather than the isolated, fragmented and tormented identities of the old man. Noah and Abraham are types of covenantal blessings for the church in union with Christ. Does my faith refresh my soul with the invigorating presence of God in the midst of His people?
- 8) Faith delights in dwelling/communion with God as the ultimate blessing rather than temporal pleasures, comforts, and positions. Noah and Abraham enjoyed friendship/fellowship with God and looked forward to its perfection/fulfillment. Does my faith enable me to live in the hope and delight of God's peace and presence?