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Hebrews 11

Good morning! Today's Scripture reading comes from Hebrews, chapter 11; commonly known as "the faith chapter."

1. "Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
2. For by it the men of old gained approval.
3. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.
4. By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.
5. By faith Enoch was taken up so that he would not see death; **AND HE WAS NOT FOUND BECAUSE GOD TOOK HIM UP**; for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God.
6. And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.
7. By faith Noah, being warned *by God* about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of

his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

8. By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going.

9. By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign *land*, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise;

10. for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

17. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten *son*;

18. *it was he* to whom it was said, 'IN ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS SHALL BE CALLED.'

19. He considered that God is able to raise *people* even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type.

23. By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

24. By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,

25. choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,

26. considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.
27. By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen.
28. By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, so that he who destroyed the firstborn would not touch them.
29. By faith they passed through the Red Sea as though *they were passing* through dry land; and the Egyptians, when they attempted it, were drowned.
30. By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days.
31. By faith Rahab the harlot did not perish along with those who were disobedient, after she had welcomed the spies in peace.”

In this text we find God’s operational definition of faith. Verses 1 and 6 state God’s literal definition of faith, while the rest of the chapter supplies Biblical examples of people who had true, Bible faith. Each of these people were saved by their faith, and serve as examples for us under the New Covenant of Christ.

Notice in each of these examples, obedience to God’s commands was the proof of their faith, and determined their salvation.

The example of Noah, as used by God in Hebrews 11, is a simple, clear example of how faith and obedience to God are inseparable. Hebrews 11:7 reads, “By faith

Noah, being warned *by God* about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.”

Noah was warned by God about the coming flood, and given detailed instructions for building the ark. Because Noah believed God--although he had never seen a flood or possibly even rain--he built the boat. And because he diligently built the ark according to God’s specific commands, he and his family--along with the animals--survived the world-wide flood. If Noah did not have faith, he would not have spent over one hundred years building the ark. (And without the ark being built, Noah would have drowned like everybody else.)

Romans 1:5 uses the phrase “the obedience of faith.” Truly this is how Noah was saved--through his personal obedience of faith.

And so it must be with us today--we are to obey the word of Christ in order to be saved by faith in Him.