

Faith: Learning To Trust God Like Our Heroes
The Response of Faith in the Example of Noah

Hebrews 11:7 | July 8, 2023

By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this, he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

For the historical account of Noah's life from Genesis, see Genesis 5:28-9:28

6 Lessons to Learn from Noah's faith:

1. Noah lived by faith

"By faith Noah..."

- Last week we learned that the only way to live a life pleasing to God is by faith (Heb 11:6).
- Biblical faith is confident in trust in whatever God says is true and acting on it regardless of the circumstances or consequences.
- The proper response of a genuine faith in God is obedience to God.
- We're saved by faith and we live by faith (Eph 2:8-10)

2. Noah listened to God's warnings and commands

"...being *warned* by God concerning events as yet unseen, *in reverent fear* constructed an ark..."

- Noah had a reverent regard for God's commands because he feared God.
- It was probably difficult for Noah to listen to and obey God's commands in some ways. Noah probably worked on the ark for about 100 years and it's possible he hadn't seen rain before. But because he feared God, he obeyed.
- We need to fear God and keep his commandments (Eccl 12:13, Deut 10:12-13).
- We ought to draw near to God with confidence (Heb 4:14-16), but we need to remember who He is and worship Him with awe, reverence, and godly fear (Heb 12:28-29).

3. Noah believed what God said about things he hadn't seen yet

Noah believed God's warnings "...concerning events as yet unseen..."

- Noah believed God about something that happened yet and also may have seemed impossible.
- God has also given us warnings and promises about the future, though they might be hard to imagine.
- Live with urgency rather than apathy, because Christ has warned and promised us that He is coming back (Matt 24:36-39).

4. Noah acted on his faith by obeying God

“...in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household.”

- The proper response of a genuine faith in God is obedience to God.
- Does your life show your faith? (James 2:17)

5. Noah lived in contrast to the world

“...By this he condemned the world...”

- Noah condemned the world in both how he lived and what he preached (2 Pet 2:5).
- The way we live ought to expose the evil in the world both in what we do and what we abstain from doing. Our goal should be that people will see Christ in our lives and be drawn to the gospel (1 Pet 3:13-17).
- As we set godly examples that expose sin, we are called to the ministry of reconciliation. God reconciled us to Him, and now we are to be ambassadors who implore sinners to be reconciled to God through Christ (2 Cor 5:18-20).

“Good examples will either convert sinners or condemn them. There is something very convincing in a life of strict holiness and regard to God; it commends itself to every man’s conscience in the sight of God, and they are judged by it. This is the best way the people of God can take to condemn the wicked; not by harsh and censorious language, but by a holy exemplary conversation.” – Matthew Henry

6. Noah became an heir of righteousness by faith

“...and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.”

- The only way to be made right with God is by faith in Christ (Rom 4:5, John 3:16).