

GSM

The Progression of Faith

I. Saving Faith

A. Abel- Hebrews 11:4

1. Faith rests upon the sacrifice of Christ. This is a far better and complete sacrifice than our works and imperfect obedience.
2. We are accepted by faith in the sacrifice of Christ.
3. He offered a sacrifice [**singular**]- God testified concerning his gifts [**plural**]. The single sacrifice of Christ opens the door for all the grace gifts of God.
4. Nowhere in the NT does it say we offered up Christ. In the OT people offered sacrifices. In the NT God offers Christ and Christ offers Himself up as a sacrifice. God and Christ give us many gifts by this single sacrifice.

II. Walking faith

A. Enoch- Hebrews 11:5-6

1. Our can only please God with our walk if we walk in faith. This is living our life on the basis of what saved us to start with- **Col. 2:6**
2. Walking by faith brings a close communion with the Lord.
3. Enoch was translated- Gr. metatithemi- to be exchanged. **Galatians 2:20**- This is the exchanged life. We are in Christ and live from His life.
4. Did not see death- When we live from Christ we will not see death in our life. We will see life. **Romans 8:6**- keeping our mind on righteousness and being in union with Christ will bring forth life. A mindset of being separate from Christ will produce death.
5. Enoch was not found. When we walk in communion with the Lord we will not be found- We are found in Christ having his righteousness- **Philippians 3:9** -Then it will be Christ living in and through us. We are hidden in the Lord- **Colossians 3:3**- Mephibosheth was lame in his feet but he ate at the King's table. His feet were hidden when he was communing and supping with the King. Our flesh will be hidden when we are in close communion with Christ. **2 Sam. 9:10**

III. Working faith

- A. **Noah- Hebrews 11:7**
- B. From our walk of faith will come the work of faith. Our work in the Lord proceeds from our walk of faith. Noah walked with God. **Gen. 6:9** Noah then went to work by faith. We will build the kingdom individually from our close communion and hearing the Lord.
- C. Each of us has something to build for God. **Ephesians 2:8-10**- We are **saved by faith** which leads us to **works** that we shall **walk in them**. This shows that our works of faith come from saving faith and walking faith.
- D. Noah prepared an ark- the word prepared was used of John the Baptist preparing a way for the Lord. Our work of faith is to prepare a path for the Lord in the Earth.

IV. Inheriting Faith

- A. **Abraham- Hebrews 11:8-10**
- B. Our labor in the Lord will lead and bring us into inheriting the promises God has for us. Inheriting faith is where our faith has been tested and we have received the promise with faith and patience and after we have done the will of God. **Hebrews 6:12; Hebrews 10:36**
- C. Our walk of faith and work of faith over our life will gradually appropriate all our inheritance and promises God has for us.
- D. Ex. Video game in which you collect all the treasures that are hidden. We are to collect all the promises and treasures of your inheritance God has for you. We do this by our walk of faith and work of faith.
- E. Abraham obeyed and went to the place God told him. He dwelt in the land of promise. He waited patiently. We must listen for God's voice to where He wants us to be. We must dwell there. Do not leave your land of promise. Stay with your calling. Paul always wanted Peter's calling to the Jews. He only prospered in his own calling. Stay where God has called you until it is time to move. Elijah stayed where God told him to stay for as long as he told him to stay. **1 Kings 17:4-9**

V. Blessing Faith

- A. **Isaac- Hebrews 11:20**
- B. God intends that we move from producing for God to reproducing in God.
- C. God's desire is that we leave the inheritance we have gotten in the Lord to the generations after us.
- D. Moses was more effective leader than Joshua because he reproduced himself before he died. Elijah was more effective leader than Elisha because he reproduced himself before he died.
- E. We need to pass on what we know and have to those of the next generation. **2 Tim. 2:2**

VI. Dying Faith

- A. **Jacob and Joseph- Hebrews 11:21-22**
- B. We can all die in faith as the heroes of Hebrews 11 did.
- C. Jacob worshipped upon of his staff or wooden rod- This is the same kind of rod Moses had. This wooden rod represents the cross. Jacob worshipped upon the basis of the cross. He placed his trust in the Lord at the point of dying.
- D. A Christian's death is much different than an unbeliever's death. Balaam wished he could die the death of the righteous. **Numbers 23:10**
- E. Where will you leave your bones when you die? Our bones speak of our remains- the remains of our life. Let your bones be buried in your promise land, not a strange land that was not the will of God.