

The Life of Faith: Noah (Hebrews 11:7)

Are you ready and willing to serve God, even when living in difficult times? I want consider the life of a man who was not perfect but pleased God in tough times. Genesis 6 begins by describing the downward spiral of mankind's sinfulness. God declares a judgment of destruction by means of a global flood. In His grace, God renews the earth but the effects of sin and the fall are not eradicated. By God's sovereign grace humanity is not wiped out entirely, and this brings the attention on Noah (Gen. 6:8). Noah stands in contrast to the rest of humanity. At a time when nearly the whole world lived so as to please themselves, Noah believed God, and because of this he was a righteous man that walked with God (Gen. 6:9). In this message, we will learn about three components of Noah's faith: the revelation, the response, and the results.

1. The Revelation (11:7a)

The first truth we see in this text is the foundation of faith. And that is the revelation, *"By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen"* (11:7a). Noah's faith was grounded in the revelation of the Lord, and this is what our faith must be grounded in. We cannot have faith if we have not received revelation from God. God spoke to Noah and told him about the Divine judgment that is about to fall by means of a worldwide flood (Gen. 6:13). Noah could not see this judgment. It was "unseen" because it was in the future. All that Noah had was what God had said. The Word of God is always enough!

2. The Response (11:7b)

We now come to the next component of Noah's faith, and that is **the response**. To do what God asked was huge. These were literally going to be uncharted waters for him. Yet in the midst of all of this, Noah believed God. He responded to the revelation by having faith. Our text continues, *"in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world"* (11:7b). Noah knew God was holy, and this caused him to respond to God's revelation with *"reverent fear"*. Because Noah knew who God was, he responded to God in a way that pleases God. The knowledge of God is what we need when the floods of life come.

3. The Results (11:7c)

We now come to the final component of Noah's faith, and that is **the results**. Faith that is built on the foundation of God's Word will have fruit. We read in the final part of our text, *"and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith"* (11:7c). The result or fruit of Noah's faith was an inheritance. The ultimate inheritance is what we read of in the following passages in this letter (11:10-16; 13:14).

Conclusion

The judgment that came was a preview of a worldwide judgment that is yet to come (Luke 17:26-27). Like Noah, we are to receive God's Word, respond to God's Word, and rest in the results of God's Word.

Group Discussion

1. What are the challenges of living a life of faith while living in a sinful culture?
2. What was the foundation of Noah's faith? Why is the Word of God all we need when it comes to living a life of faith?
3. Explain why the knowledge of God's character helps us respond to His Word with godly fear. See also Proverbs 1:7 and 9:10.
4. Read Hebrews 11:10-16 and 13:14 and discuss the significance of keeping our eyes on our eternal inheritance while living in this world.
5. After reading Luke 17:26-27, what lessons does the judgment in Noah's day teach us?