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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Hebrews 11:4-7
Lesson #27
Testimony of Faith
07/14/2024

1

The majesty of Christ

HEBREWS

11:4-7
Testimony of Faith
(What are some signs of true faith?)

2

1 Corinthians 13:13
 “But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

The greatest is LOVE.


The first is FAITH.

3

Hebrews 11:1
 “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

“If a picture is worth a thousand words, how much is an example worth?”

18 of the first 33 verses in Hebrews 11 open with “By faith”.



4


Hebrews 11:1
 “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

God’s gifts to us are **Light** and **Sight**.

Our responses to God are **Repentance** and **Faith**.

Faith is the **commitment & courage** to:

Sacrifice	Seek	Serve
vs.4	vs.5-6	vs.7
Abel	Enoch	Noah



5

Hebrews 11
 “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.”

Genesis 4
 “3 Cain brought an offering to the Lord of the fruit of the ground. 4 Abel, on his part also brought of the **firstlings** of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and for his offering; 5 but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard.”

Sacrifice
 Faith is seen in the quality of our sacrifices.

6



A testimony of faith

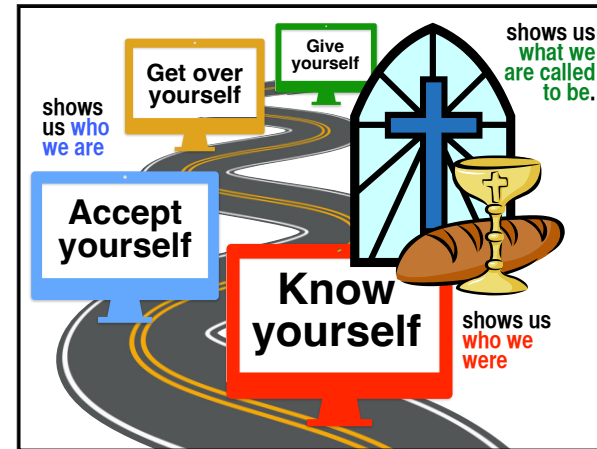
Luke 21:1-4

The offering was not about how much she gave, but about how much she gave up, revealing the size of her faith, hope, and love.

7

Heb.11:4-7 is a testimony of
Romans 12
 “1 I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy **sacrifice**, **acceptable** to God, which is your spiritual **service** of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may **prove what the will of God is**, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

8



shows us **who we are**

Get over yourself

Give yourself

shows us **what we are called to be.**

Accept yourself

Know yourself

shows us **who we were**

9

“The Scripture clearly asks disciples of Jesus to lose their old life in order to find their new life. I had to ask what have I given up to know him and myself?”

Dr. Rosaria Champagne Butterfield
 former postmodern, feminist, English professor
lesbian.

10

What we make our greatest sacrifices for will reveal our functional Messiah.

- A “functional messiah” is whatever makes us **feel secure, & significant.**
- If Jesus is only a “figurehead messiah” It will show up in our weak self sacrifices.
- Faith in God **frees** us for self sacrificing, virtuous behavior.
- **WHAT DO OUR SEEKING AND SACRIFICES TELL US ABOUT OUR FAITH?**

11

Hebrews 11
 “5 By faith **Enoch** was taken up so that he should 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.**”

Hebrews 4:16
 “Let us therefore **draw near with confidence to the throne of grace**, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.”

Seek
 Faith frees us to boldly approach a gracious and holy God.

12

Acts 17

“23 For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, ‘TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.’ What therefore **you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you.** ... 26 and He (God) made from one, every nation of mankind . . . 27 that they should seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though **He is not far from each one of us;** 28 **for in Him we live and move and exist,** as even some of your own poets have said, **‘For we also are His offspring.’** ... 30 Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should repent.”

13

How comfortable are we with God?

- The **image of God** in all humanity gives us a desire to seek God.
- The **Word of the Cross** gives us confidence in seeking God?
- How serious are we about **following** the Great Physician’s orders?
- **DO WE PETITION GOD TO KNOW HIS WILL OR GRANT US OURS?**



14

“**True prayer is asking God what He wants.**”



knowing that in the end it is what our soul really **needs & longs for.**

William Barclay

15

Hebrews 11

“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.”

Genesis 6:14

“Make for yourself an ark ... 7:1 Enter the ark, you and all your household, for you alone I have seen to be righteous before Me in this time.”

Serve

Faith responds to God’s word with action.

16

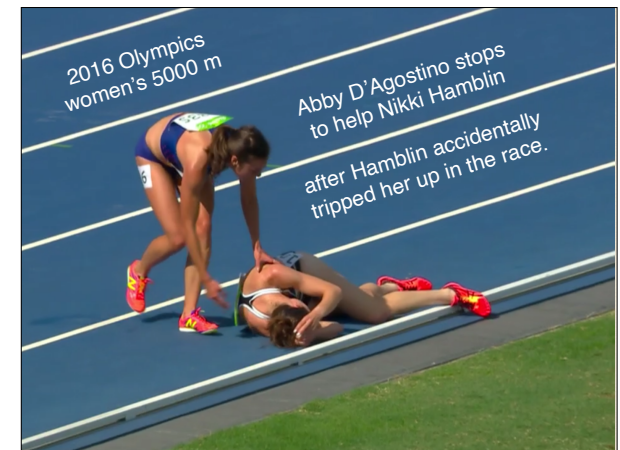
Faith without action is **UNSEEN and USELESS.**

James 2

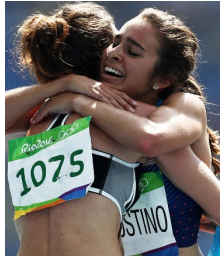
“18 But someone may well say, “You have faith, and I have works; **show me** your faith without the works, and **I will show you** my faith by my works.”

19 You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. 20 But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works **is useless?**”

17



18



Abbey D'Agostino

“Although my actions were instinctual at that moment, the only way I can and have rationalized it is that God prepared my heart to respond that way”

“This whole time here, He’s made clear to me that my experience in Rio was going to be about more than my race performance — and as soon as Nikki got up I knew that was it.”

Hamblin described D'Agostino as “an amazing woman” and revealed that the pair had never met before the collision.

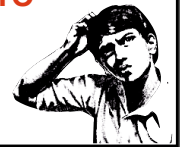
1 Cor. 13:4-7 Love is a response to

patient trials
kind insults
not jealous success of others
does not brag success of self
is not arrogant power & authority
not unbecoming freedom
not self seeking competition
is not provoked confrontation
holds no grudges injustice
does not rejoice failure of others
rejoices in the truth gossip & slander
bears all things losses
believes/hopes all things discouragement
endures all things delayed hopes

Our faith is exposed in our response to circumstances.

Our behavior will reveal our faith.

- How do we **respond** to life’s ups and downs?
- How seriously do we take our **baptismal covenant** of self denial?
- **DO ANGER AND ANXIETY SAP AWAY OUR ENERGY TO BEAR WITNESS TO OUR FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE?**



“In times of testing, our first question must not be, ‘HOW can I get out of this?’

but

‘WHAT should I get out of this and/or bring to this?’.”

HEALTH MOVEMENT DIRECTLY WITHOUT OCCURRENCES EMERGE
LAHARS MEET GAMMA RAY FOR WATER VOLCANOES
DISASTER WALL STORMS AREAS PEOPLE DROUGHT
BLIZZARDS INVOLVEMENT TECTONIC
NATURAL LOST HYPERNOVAE
DISASTERS TECTONIC VIOLENT
HAZARDS UNDERSTANDING THUNDERSTORMS
IONS DISASTERS TSUNAMIS
EARTHQUAKE HAZARD

**ARE THEY ACTS OF GOD?
OR CALL FOR THEM!**

Hebrews

Next week
11:8-16

Faith of Abraham