

**“By Faith” Hebrews 11:1-12 5/28/17**

Today, we'd like to see the title of "By Faith" in the book of Hebrews 11:1-12

To Online Word's people on the earth, we'd like to suggest 3 Questions.

Q1. In verse 4, " By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks," why did God accept Abel's offering, not Cain's offering? And what did God account for the righteousness of Abel?

Q2. In verse 5, "By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God," who are like Enoch in the Bible? And what was Enoch's testimony to please God, and how should we do to please God?

Q3. In verse 6, " But 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 diligently seek Him," what does it mean? And how should we respond to this verse?

**(Background)**

(Hebrews 10:1, 36-39)

<sup>1</sup>For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, *and* not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. <sup>36</sup> For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: <sup>37</sup> "For yet a little while, *And* He who is coming will come and will not tarry. <sup>38</sup> Now the just shall live by faith; But if *anyone* draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him." <sup>39</sup> But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

**(Text)**

<sup>1</sup> Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

1= faith...the substance of things hoped for ... the evidence of things not seen (general definition of faith –not only Christians' faith but other believers' faith e.g. 9.11 Muslim attackers of NY twin towers, believing having a lot of wives –the substance, scientific term, of having wives hoped for + the evidence, legal term, of having wives not seen – bad testimony)

<p><sup>2</sup> <u>For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.</u></p> <p><sup>3</sup> <u>By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.</u></p> <p><sup>4</sup> <u>By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.</u></p> <p><sup>5</sup> <u>By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.</u></p>	<p>2= For by it (by faith), the elders (our forefather believers of God e.g. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Elijah, or Paul <sup>1</sup>James 5:17-18; 1 Kings 17:1, 18:1); a good testimony (about God, i.e., how God worked through him or her)</p> <p>3= By faith... we (believers or Christians)... the worlds were framed by the word of God (the faith of Christians or believers is necessary of the word of God; we believe God, His promises, and His word. All creatures were created by the Word of God, see Genesis 1 – light, 2. firmament (sky), 3. dry land; 4. great lights &amp; stars; 5. sea creatures &amp; birds; 6. living creatures on the earth &amp; man <sup>2</sup>Gen 1:3,6,9,16, 21, 24, 26; Rom 10:17); the things which are seen (all seen creatures)... not made of things which are visible (His word not seen; from not existence – BARA; ASA something from existence, e.g., wine from grapes)</p> <p>4= Q1 By faith Abel offered to God... he was righteous (God accounted Abel's faith for righteousness, because Abel's animal sacrifice offering was made to God by faith while Cain's meal offering was made to God without faith <sup>3</sup>Gen 4:3-5; Rom 1:17); God testifying of his gifts (offerings to God); an through it (the faith) he being dead still speaks (even if he was killed by his brother, through the faith he speaks his righteousness – in the scriptures, first it speaks FAITH is accounted for righteousness)</p> <p>5= Q2 By faith Enoch was taken away [translated] (was caught up into the air); he did not see death (he was not appointed to die physically); was not found (on the earth) because God had taken him (like Elijah &amp; rapture of church <sup>4</sup>Gen 5:21-24; Heb 9:27; 2 Kings 2:11; 1 Thess 4:17; so, Enoch is a type of raptured church before the Great</p>
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<sup>1</sup> James 5:17-18 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. <sup>18</sup> And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit. 1 Kings 17:1 And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word." 18:1 And it came to pass after many days that the word of the LORD came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, "Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth."

<sup>2</sup> Gen 1:3,6,9,16, 21, 24, 26 <sup>3</sup> Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. <sup>6</sup> Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." <sup>9</sup> Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. <sup>16</sup> Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. <sup>21</sup> So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>24</sup> Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind"; and it was so. <sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." Rom 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

<sup>3</sup> Gen 4:3-5 And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. <sup>4</sup> Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup> but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.; Rom 1:17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

<sup>4</sup> Gen 5:21-24 Enoch lived sixty-five years, and beget Methuselah. <sup>22</sup> After he beget Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters. <sup>23</sup> So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. <sup>24</sup> And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.; Heb 9:27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.; 2 Kings 2:11 Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them: and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.; 1 Thess 4:17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

<p><b><u>6 But 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 diligently seek Him.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.</u></b></p>	<p>Tribulation) ; this testimony...pleased God (Enoch's prophecy about the judgment to come soon – universal flood judgment was fulfilled at the time of Methuselah's death – Methuselah means judgment in his death. <sup>5</sup> <i>Jude 1:14-15</i> ; so to please God, live by faith)</p> <p>6= Q3 without faith it is impossible to please Him (faith is a necessary term to please God or to live for His pleasure); he who comes to God (worshipper; believer); must believe that He is (the presence of God, not alone), and (but also, PLUS) that He is a rewarder of those (God answers those)who diligently seek Him (seek Him for wisdom, word, understanding, direction... search the Scriptures. <sup>6</sup> <i>John 5:39</i>, i.e. our response is to live by faith <sup>7</sup> <i>James 2:19-20</i>)</p> <p>7= by faith, Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet see (universal flood judgment on the earth)... with godly fear, prepared an ark (a huge ship) for the saving of his household (8 family members with the couples of all the other animals <sup>8</sup> <i>Gen 6:5-10,14</i>, i.e. a type of 144,000 Israelites through the Great Tribulation); the righteousness which is according to faith (God accounted Noah's faith for righteousness)</p> <p>8= By faith Abraham obeyed... ( Eve's seed, Abraham's seed through faith, Messiah; even if Abraham's faith wavered, God accounted his faith for righteousness. <sup>9</sup> <i>Gen 3:15; Gen 15:4-6; Isaiah 53:5-6; Gal 3:16</i>); when he was called to go out to the place (from Haran, his home town, to Canaan, <sup>10</sup> <i>Gen 12:1,5</i>); not knowing where he was going (knew when he went there)</p>
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<sup>5</sup> *Jude 1:14-15* Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, <sup>15</sup> to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

<sup>6</sup> *John 5:39* You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

<sup>7</sup> *James 2:19-20* You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! <sup>20</sup> But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

<sup>8</sup> *Gen 6:5-10,14* Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. <sup>6</sup> And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. <sup>7</sup> So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." <sup>8</sup> But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. <sup>9</sup> This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God. <sup>10</sup> And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. <sup>14</sup> Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch.

<sup>9</sup> *Gen 3:15* And I will put enmity Between you and the woman. And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."; *Gen 15:4-6* And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup> Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup> And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.; *Isaiah 53:5-6* But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him. And by His stripes we are healed.

<sup>6</sup> *John 5:39* All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.; *Gal 3:16* Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ.

<sup>10</sup> *Gen 12:1,5* <sup>1</sup> Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country. From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. <sup>5</sup> Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of Canaan.

<p><sup>9</sup> <u>By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;</u></p>	<p>9= By faith he dwelt ... in the land of promise as in a foreign country (Canaan land); with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise (<sup>11</sup> <i>Gen 13:14-15, Gen 32:9</i>)</p>
<p><sup>10</sup> for he <u>waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.</u></p>	<p>10= he waited for the city... whose builder and maker is God (waited for the city of God or the kingdom of God)</p>
<p><sup>11</sup> <u>By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.</u></p>	<p>11= By faith Sarah... received strength to conceive seed (90 years old Sarah – her faith first wavered, laughed, but through her faith she was pregnant of Isaac <sup>12</sup> <i>Gen 18:12-15</i>; Isaac means laughter, joy, or joyfulness) : because (what kind of her faith?) she judged Him faithful who had promised (she believed the faithful God, i.e., she counted on His promise to her to conceive seed in even past the age of pregnancy -- Our faith may waver, but God who has promised, is faithful! And that's the thing you can count on! )</p>
<p><sup>12</sup> <u>Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.</u></p>	<p>12= Therefore from one man (Abraham, 100 years old); him as good as dead (not to fertilize or to Sarah not to conceive); born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand... (through Christ, many believers, now 2 billion Christians of 7 billion people on the earth <sup>13</sup> <i>Gal 3:28-29</i> vs. 1.8 billion Muslim – Sunni 90% + Shia 10%)</p>

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<sup>11</sup> *Gen 13:14-15* And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: "Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward; <sup>15</sup> for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever.. *Gen 32:9* Then Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, the LORD who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your family, and I will deal well with you':

<sup>12</sup> *Gen 18:12-15* Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, "After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?" <sup>13</sup> And the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old?' <sup>14</sup> Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son." <sup>15</sup> But Sarah denied it, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid. And He said, "No, but you did laugh!"

<sup>13</sup> *Gal 3:28-29* There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female: for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.