

The Oologah Informer July 12th, 2015

Without Faith, I cannot pass the Test By Skip Andrews

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Service Times

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 A.M.
Worship: 10:30 A.M. & 5 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7 P.M.

Preacher:

Russ Earl

AM Sermon:

Exodus – “God’s Laws”
Lesson 13 of 13

PM Sermon:

Report of Fiji Trip

Sunday AM Bible Class:

The book of Proverbs - D. Jackson

Wednesday Bible Class:

Summer Series – Ted Thrasher

In SEARCH of the Lord’s Way

Tulsa KWHB-47
Sunday mornings at 7:30 am

Oologah Internet Radio Programs

Russ’ Program on Friday’s
@ 8am & 8pm

Vance’ Program on Wednesdays
@ 6:30pm & Thursdays @ 6:30am

LIVE broadcast on Mondays @
4:30pm

Visit www.tgrn.org to listen!

“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Hebrews 11:6).

The Bible is a book of many themes. One of the themes is the stories of people who can be called men and women of faith. According to the text above, faith is absolutely necessary if a person is to please God. As a matter of fact, verse two teaches that it was by faith that the people of old gained a good report (approval).

Please spend a few minutes thinking about the four questions that I want to bring to your mind in this article.

HOW CAN WE TELL IF A PERSON IS A PERSON OF FAITH?

One simple principle is all we need in order to answer this question. In James 2:14-26, this theme is discussed. The whole issue as to whether or not a person is a person of faith is seen in these words: “shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works” (James 2:18b). The writer makes it clear that a person of faith is a person who **does something because of what he or she believes!** People who do not act in harmony with their faith are not people of faith! In all seven of the letters to the churches of Asia, Jesus said He knew the works of the people and they would be judged by those works (Revelation 2, 3). A study of the whole Bible would make it clearer and clearer that Bible faith **always** includes the actions (obedience) that faith requires. And Bible faith **always** requires action.

WHO WERE PEOPLE OF FAITH IN THE BIBLE?

Let us return to Hebrews 11 to give a few answers to this question. The entire chapter is filled with the stories of people who were men and women of faith. In every case, the fact that they can be called people of faith is due to the fact that their faith did the things that their faith required.

Here are some samples: Abel was a man of faith because he offered God the worship that He commanded (verse 4). Enoch was a man of faith because he walked with God (verse 5; see also Ephesians 4:1-3; 5:1-2). Noah was a man of faith because he prepared the ark (verse 7). Abraham was a man of faith because he went where God told him to go (verse 8). Sarah was a woman of faith because she believed in the faithfulness of God and received strength to conceive (verse 11). Unnamed people were men and women of faith because they did the will of God in all kinds of circumstances (verses 33-39).

WHO WERE NOT PEOPLE OF FAITH IN THE BIBLE?

In many of the very same stories that are mentioned in Hebrews 11, there were other people to whom no reference is made because they were not people of faith! And how do we know they were not people of faith? Is it because they were atheists? Absolutely not — as a matter of fact, some of them even talked with

God! The reason they were not people of faith is because they did not act in harmony with the things that they were supposed to believe.

Here are some samples: Cain was not a man of faith because he did not offer God the worship that He commanded. The people of Noah's day were not people of faith because they did not obey the commands they received (1 Peter 3:20). The people of Abraham's day were not people of faith because they refused to honor God's standards of sexual morality (Genesis 18, 19).

AM I A PERSON OF FAITH ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE?

The question here includes the question about believing that which God requires me to believe (because believing is an act of obedience [John 8:24]). But it also includes **doing the things that faith requires**. This takes us back to James 2. Here, two examples are given of this very thing: Abraham and Rahab. They are both correctly thought of as people of faith because of this. So, the writer makes the application. He says if I am claiming to be a benevolent person by merely wishing the needy to be better off, I stand condemned!

There are also examples of this with regard to becoming a child of God. In Acts of the Apostles, Luke gives several accounts of people who were not counted as being pleasing to God until their faith acted in obedience to other requirements (repentance – Acts 2:38; confession – Acts 8:37; baptism – Acts 22:16).

I hope you will consider how important faith is since it is required for God's approval. But do not be deceived into thinking it will suffice by itself — men and women of faith were people who obeyed God's commands. And it is still that way.