

The Real Faith, Part 3

by Bishop Keith Butler | Bible Study Notes | Sunday, October 3, 2021

Opening Summary

Pleasing God is the requirement to be raptured. In this study, we will look at what it means to please Him. In previous parts of this series, we saw that Enoch pleased God and the reward he received for walking with God. Now we will see how Noah, Abraham, and Sara had real faith that pleased God because they did His will.

- I. *Faith* (Gk.: *pistis*) is *assurance, belief, trust, confidence in God and reliance on God.*
- II. Heb. 11:7: Noah's response pleased God. Underline "warned of God."
 - A. God warns, but people must receive His warning (Mark 4:15).
 - B. God created male and female, but you can decide, "*I believe* something different."
 - C. Noah was warned that it would rain; but it had never rained before.
 - D. He told the people even though they laughed at him. He obeyed immediately.
 - E. *Condemned the world* means (Gk. *krino*) to *judge against or to sentence.*
 - F. Only eight people made it into the ark (1 Pet 3:20).
 - G. Heb. 11:6: This is pleasing God. Noah's reward was that he didn't drown.
- III. Heb. 11:8: Abraham's response pleased God. Faith that pleases God obeys Him.
 - A. Heb. 11:9: God asked him to leave all he knew, go to an unknown place. He had to live in tents. God will ask you to do the same.
 - B. That's what He asked me to do when He sent me to Bible school.
 - C. Abraham spent a significant amount of time in a less prosperous environment.
 - D. Heb. 11:10: He looked for a city as he focused on the promise of the Father.
 1. This is what should drive your decisions (Rev. 21:2).
 2. This city is 144,000 square miles north, south, east, west, and upward.
 - E. People make decisions based on the flesh, then want to go up yonder.
- IV. Heb. 11:11-12: Sara's response pleased God. Underline the word "received."
 - A. God told her she would have a child in her old age.
 - B. Abraham's body was as good as dead. Her body was past childbearing age.
 - C. Sara, despite the natural evidence, judged Him faithful.
 - D. The rewards do not come when you don't please God!!
 - E. Real faith is having faith in God regardless of afflictions and lack of ability.
 - F. Isaac was born. If you belong to Christ, you are one of Sara's children (Gal. 3:29).
 - G. God helped them by changing their name. Because you have what you say.
 - H. Their name described who God said they were.

- V. Heb. 11:13: They didn't live long enough to see the completion of God's plan.
 - A. They acknowledged that they didn't belong to this world .
 - B. Your job is to be an ambassador for God's kingdom.
 - C. They see God's love through your works.
 - D. Then you tell them it was Jesus who changed your life (Rom. 12:2).

- VI. Heb. 11:14-16: They didn't look back thinking about the past.
 - A. Lot's wife did not please God, because she looked back (Gen. 19:26; Luke 17:32).
 - B. What happened to those in Sodom and Gomorrah, happened to her.
 - C. Real faith never looks back.

- VII. Heb. 11:17-19: Abraham saw his son being raised up.
 - A. God gave you an imagination so you can imagine yourself winning.
 - B. Imagine yourself with all your bills paid, your body healed, etc.
 - C. Meditate on those things.
 - D. Don't say what you see, say what you want (Rom. 4:17).

- VIII. Heb. 11:32-34: Operating in real faith is remaining strong when tragedy comes.
 - A. The result is victory.
 - B. When hard times came, they didn't look back. They submitted to God only.
 - C. Don't bow your knee to anybody but God, Almighty!

- IX. Heb. 11:35: Some believed the more suffering the better your resurrection will be.
 - A. Heb. 11:36-40: The promise refers to the Messiah.
 - B. Heb. 11:40: They did all that and Jesus hadn't even come yet.
 - C. We can look at what Jesus did for us.

- X. Whether you walk in that victory depends on your obedience to God.
 - A. What does a slip-shod Christian say to Enoch?
 - B. They expect to have what Enoch had. I haven't found that in Scripture.
 - C. God expects every Christian to do works for Him.
 - D. God wants you blessed. But you should want Him, not just His blessings.

Closing Summary

We discovered that real faith is remaining strong when trials come your way. When trials try to stop you, real faith stands firm on what God said. Your victory depends on your obedience to God. When you walk with Him, do what He says and don't look back, you will get His reward.