

THESE THREE REMAIN

Inductive Study on FAITH, HOPE & LOVE

(STUDY 1 – FAITH)

And now these three remain: **faith**, **hope** and **love**. But the greatest of these is love (1 Corinthians 13:13). In this a **3-part** study series we will seek to define these gifts of God's grace to us as believers and what it looks like for each to be active and growing in our lives.

FAITH: DEFINED

READ Hebrews 11:1-3 (Scripture passages at the back of the study):

- circle every reference to *faith* (including pronoun – *it*)

11:1 – What is faith?

11:2 – How did the people of old gain God's approval?

11:3 – What do we understand by faith?

READ Ephesians 2:8-9:

2:8-9 – What do we learn about faith?

FAITH: APPLIED

READ Hebrews 11:4-7 and:

- circle every reference to *faith* / *believe*.
- underline every reference to *commended* / *commending*.

ABEL

11:4a – Why was Abel commended as righteous?

11:4a – How did God commend Abel as righteous?

11:4b – What does Abel still do?

ABEL

READ Genesis 4:1-5:

4:3-4a – What did Cain and Abel each bring to the LORD?

4:4b-5 – What was the LORD's response to the offering of Abel? Cain?

What did Abel's offering require the shedding of?

READ Hebrews 9:22

9:22 - What is there none of without the shedding of blood?

What was Abel trusting in to draw near to God and be accepted in His sight?

READ Romans 3:21-26:

- circle every reference to *faith / believe*.
- underline every reference to the *righteousness of God*.

JESUS

3:21-22a – What has now been manifested apart from the law?

3:22b-23 – Why do we need it?

3:24-25a – How are we justified (commended as righteous)?

3:25b-26 – Why did God do it this way?

PROPITIATION – The death of Jesus on the cross for our sins, enduring the wrath of God that we deserved, so that all who take refuge in Him could be delivered from it.

THINKING IT THROUGH

- Whose righteousness are you relying upon to be accepted by God – your own or Jesus's?
- Whose approval matters most to you? Whose approval directs your life?

ENOCH

Turn back to Hebrews 11:

11:5a – Why was Enoch taken up by God?

11:5b – What was he commended for before being taken?

11:6 – What is impossible without faith? Why?

READ Genesis 5:22-24

5:22-24 – How did Enoch please God?

What was his reward?

JESUS

BEHOLDING THE LORD

As believers our walk with the LORD in this life is by faith not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). And one aspect of that is to seek to know Him better through His Word, our faith in the LORD strengthened as we grow in our knowledge of Him:

READ 2 Corinthians 3:18:

3:18a – What happens as we behold the glory of the Lord?

3:18b - Who enables us to behold the glory of the Lord in the Scriptures?

THINKING IT THROUGH

- Why do you read or study the Bible?
- What should one of the primary reasons be according to 2 Corinthians 3:18?

NOAH

READ Genesis 6:6-9

6:8-9 – What do we learn about Noah?

Turn back to Hebrews 11:

11:7a – How was Noah's faith in God demonstrated?

11:7b – What did Noah do by faith?

READ Hebrews 12:1-3:

- circle every reference to *we / us / you*.
- put a cross beside every reference to *Jesus* (including pronouns).

JESUS

12:1 – Why are we to run the *race of faith*?

Where have we already learnt about some of those witnesses of faith?

12:1 – How are we to run?

12:2 – Who are we to look to as the greatest example of faith? How was His faith in the Father demonstrated and then vindicated?

12:3 – Why are we to consider Him?

“Never did any look upon Christ with a believing eye, but he was made like Christ...Looking on a bleeding Christ causes a soft bleeding heart; looking on a holy Christ causes sanctity of heart; looking on a humble Christ makes the soul humble. As the chameleon is changed into the colour of that which it looks upon, so faith, looking on Christ, changes the Christian into the similitude of Christ.” – Thomas Watson (1620-86), Body of Divinity.

THINKING IT THROUGH

- What is faith without works (see James 2:14-17)?
- Where are you being challenged to compromise – to please man rather than God?
- What *weight* or *sin* do you need to lay aside?
- Do you feel like quitting the race? What are we to do in such times? Who could you help to do so today?

REFLECTION

So, as we draw this study to a close, our prayer is that you have found it helpful and that it has both challenged and encouraged you in your walk with Christ. However, perhaps questions like these remain unanswered:

Do you ever wonder if your faith will fail? If you'll finish your race?

If so, then be encouraged by the truth that right now Jesus is praying for you. And that no sinful failure or fiery trial will ever separate you from the love of God in Him. Jesus – our forerunner and faithful High Priest, who has gone into heaven on our behalf, where He ever lives to intercede for us to save to the uttermost all who draw near to God through Him.

What a sure hope we have in Him!! But more about that in the next study.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

HEBREWS 11:1-3

11 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² For by it the people of old received their commendation. ³ By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

EPHESIANS 2:8-9

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

HEBREWS 11:4-7

⁴ By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. ⁵ By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. ⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. ⁷ By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

GENESIS 4:1-5

4 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have produced a man with the help of the LORD." ² And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. ³ In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, ⁴ and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, ⁵ but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.

HEBREWS 9:22

²² Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

ROMANS 3:21-26

²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

GENESIS 5:22-24

²² Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah for 300 years and had other sons and daughters. ²³ Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. ²⁴ Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.

2 CORINTHIANS 3:18

¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

GENESIS 6:6-9

⁶ And the LORD was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. ⁷ So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them." ⁸ But Noah found favour in the eyes of the LORD.

⁹ These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.

HEBREWS 12:1-3

12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or faint-hearted.