

Noah: The Work of Faith

Hebrews 11:7

Introduction

Noah is the next hero of faith listed in Hebrews 11. In Genesis 6, we are told that in a day and time where there was much moral and spiritual corruption, "Noah found favor with God" (vs. 8). Noah was unique because he stood in bold contrast to the atmosphere of his day.

We're told three things about him. He was righteous; that is, he had a right relationship with God. We're told that he was blameless; he had a public testimony that validated his righteous heart. And we're told that he walked with God. There was intimacy in his relationship. He was not merely a religious performer carrying out religious duties. If you're going to be a unique person of faith, you're going to be different from a lot of the folks around you.

There are different types of Christians. The "secular" Christian has adopted a culturally accepted world-view, and has conformed his mind and behavior to that of the world. We are told however, in Romans 12:2, "Do not be conformed to this world." We are not to let an outside system of values shape us. Another type of Christian is one who is not actively pursuing the world, rather he or she is passive in the midst of the world. In other words, they don't actively go out and try to be worldly, but they just go with the "flow." The active Christian is one who doesn't mind going against the flow. They are more interested in living according to God's views than that of anyone else's. Noah was an active Christian. Not only did he swim against the tide of culture, he was willing to act on God's Word when it made absolutely no sense.

Noah was warned by God about something that he had never seen or experienced – rain. The key to faith is God's revelation and illumination. The only thing you need to be convinced of when you walk by faith is that God said it! That's all you need; nothing more than that! How do you know God said it? Either God's Word explicitly addresses the issue that you face or the Holy Spirit takes the Word of God and applies it to your situation, thus revealing His will to you. Revelation is what God said. Inspiration is what God wrote. And illumination is application of God's word to where you are.

Noah was a man of faith because he acted on God's Word, even when it didn't make sense. And he was willing to stand alone in order to be right with God while living in a culture that was doing exactly the opposite.

Getting Started

1. What area(s) in your life is God asking you to stand alone as you follow Him and go against the "flow" of the culture?
2. Noah was righteous, blameless, and walked with God. How would you describe yourself in each of those areas?

Let's Get Personal

1. There are three types of Christians – secular, passive, and active. Which one best describes you?
2. Noah had faith. When God spoke, Noah picked up a hammer and went to work building the ark. What is God asking of you? Does His request make sense? Have you "picked up your hammer" and begun to work?
3. Noah had to wait a while to see God's Word come to fruition. It's probable that his period of waiting wasn't easy. Have you ever been angry or frustrated when you've had to wait on God? How do you deal with those emotions?

Take the Next Step

1. Romans 12:2 says "**Do not be conformed to this world.**" Where is God speaking to you to be unique and different from the culture? Where can you take concrete steps this week to conform yourself to Christ.
2. Name one concrete thing you will do this week to "pick up your hammer" and get to work where God's revealed or inspired Word is leading you to take action.

Renew Your Mind

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