

Hebrews 11:7

Faith In Action

- one thing the Bible teaches is the importance of having an active faith- one put into action
(Luke 6:44- “a tree is known by its fruit / James 2:18- “faith without works is dead)

*How else can someone see your faith unless its active?

vs.7- Noah’s faith showed out in his obedience to God

- his faith exemplifies the theological assertion in the end of the previous verse

*How did Noah survive the flood? (God’s universal judgment on a wicked mankind)

*the answer is not simply by building a big boat

*one must look deeper into what motivated the construction of the ark

*he believed what God told him- that’s faith and his actions flowed from that faith

*what would have happened if Noah’s faith had been inactive?

Truth- if his faith wasn’t active, then it would have shown that he didn’t actually believe
what God was telling him

*if faith is valid, it will visibly radiate itself in obedience

-“being warned”- (chrematizo) a divine command or instruction

(This phrase also carries the idea of being a mouthpiece of divine revelation)

*this is why Peter refers to him as a “preacher of righteousness” in II Peter 2:5

-“not seen yet”- he was told of God’s impending judgment and was to warn others of it

Truth- God always warns before He acts

-“moved with fear”- (eulabeomai) to act cautiously, to reverence, to be in awe

- Noah acts cautiously to God’s specific instructions on how to build the ark (Gen.6:14-16)
and what goes on the ark (Gen.7:2-3)

*Look at Gen.6:5-9

-vs.9 tells us he was a man of obedient faith before God called him to build the ark

(This is how he “found grace in the eyes of the Lord”)

- when the whole world was wicked, selfish, and sinful, Noah walked a different path

(And when he received word from God, he moved cautiously, diligently, and immediately)

- Gen.6:22, 7:5,9,16 all speak of Noah being obedient to God’s commands

Truth- the world had never seen rain before- Gen.2:5-6 tells us how God watered all vegetation

*imagine the ridicule Noah received when he told them about what God was going to do

* in Gen.6:14, something called “pitch” was used to seal the ark

(Pitch comes from crude petroleum and is like tar- it is still used in asphalt today)

- large deposits of it were known to be around the Dead Sea and Mesopotamia

Interesting- the Hebrew word for verb “pitch” and “atone” are the same (kaphar)

- the pitch was smeared onto the wood to make it waterproof

(The wood did float, but it was the pitch that kept the waters of judgment from entering in)

*just as pitch was put on the wood, Christ was put on the Cross to keep God’s judgment from us

-“he condemned the world”- his active faith stood in contrast to the immorality of the world

Truth- Noah is the 1st person in the Bible to be called righteous (Gen.7:1)

(his righteousness condemned the unrighteousness of the world)

*the obedience of some reveal the disobedience in others

*Remember vs.6- He is a “rewarder”- (Noah’s household was all saved)

- people who live lives of faith and completely surrendered to Christ cause others to see the
error of their ways (this is one reason Christians are mocked) John 3:19-21

*Noah’s life was a light in a world full of darkness

-“heir”- Noah’s faith gave him an inheritance and a hope the world could not understand

(Matt.24:37-39)