

Hebrews 11:4-6

## The Faith of Abel and Enoch

- one thing that should be noted here is the fact of how your faith speaks long after you're gone  
(The writer uses these people to speak to his readers and God uses them to speak to us)
- the readers know that its all about faith and always will be

(Faith is trusting God at His Word- Rom.10:17)

- in this book, the writer has already concluded Chris's superiority and the fact that He came as "God in the flesh" (so faith in Christ is, in fact, faith in God)

vs.4- the story of Cain and Abel is found in Gen.4:1-15 and is very complex

\*Why did God accept Abel and not Cain? The answer is the 1<sup>st</sup> 2 words- "By faith"

\*Lets look at Genesis 4- What made Abel's offering acceptable?

(Notice the wording in Gen.4:4-5- "unto Abel and his offering" and "unto Cain and his offering")

Truth- it wasn't necessarily the offering that God rejected since God accepted both grain and animals according to their purpose

\*it was the character of the person that made one acceptable and the other not

(Abel's character is on display in how he offers God the "firstlings")

- Cain's heart is revealed shortly after this- his heart was wrong and its shown in the fact that he didn't even offer God his "firstfruits"

Truth- Abel offered "by faith" and this would be offered by a "cheerful giver"

(Notice how Cain became "wroth" after God rejected his offering)

- Cain not only kills his brother out of jealousy, but he also becomes angry with God when he gets snarky- Gen.4:9

\*if Cain's heart was full of faith, he would have repented of God's rejection and sought to offer God a pleasing sacrifice (a person of faith desires to please God)

- "obtained witness that he was righteous"- the Lord accepted Abel's offering because He accepted Abel's faith (without faith, no one can receive imputed righteousness- Gen.15:6)

- "yet speaketh"- this is the writer reminding them of Gen.4:10 and also of how his faith still speaks to us- Jesus mentions him in Matt.23:35

vs.5- "translated"- (metatithemi) to change or transfer, to desert one thing for another

\*Enoch's story is unique (he was a prophet according to Jude 14-15, the father of Methuselah, and great-grandfather of Noah- Luke 3)

- in Gen.5, he is the only one mentioned that "walked with God" (mentioned twice)
- "pleased"- (euaireteō) the word is the Septuagint (O.T. Greek transl.) rendering of the Hebrew phrase "walk with" (Enoch pleased God in that he walked with God)

vs.6- the author concludes in this verse that without faith it is impossible to "please" Him  
(This word is the same as in the previous verse)

Truth- one cannot please God without walking in the light of truth and one cannot walk with God and lack faith

- "He is"- the verb here is perfect and means always has, always is, and always will be  
(The phrase parallels the "I AM" in Exodus 3:14)

\*the belief implies that God is eternal and the only true God

- "rewarder"- He rewards not only with an inheritance, but also with forgiveness and righteousness  
(He rewards now and for eternity)

Truth- without faith, it is impossible to be commended by God and with faith it is impossible to be condemned (John 3:17-18)

Remember- faith honors God and God honors faith- Acts 7:55-56