

The Wonder of Faith

²³ By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's edict. (Heb. 11:23)

The main emphasis of Hebrews 11 is “by faith.”

Hebrews 11 is the retelling of the mighty deeds and wonderful obedience of those people church history has called, the heroes of the faith.

We are told by writer of Hebrews that God measures people by their faith because “without faith it is impossible to please God.”

... So, God chastise those whose lives exemplify **weakness** of faith.

... And God highly honors those who exemplify **strength** of faith.

Faith comes from God AND it is also true that the more you believe the more God strengthens.

Anyone who has faith in Christ, even as small as a mustard seed, they will be saved.

... where there is faith in Christ, there is salvation.

... salvation is by grace through faith ... even the smallest and weakest

HOWEVER, we must not forget, that as a believer, as a child of God, ...

... if your faith is weak, you will miss many of the spiritual blessings and rewards that God has for you.

... This is why church attendance, prayer, meditation, bible reading ... and all the other spiritual disciplines are so important.

- Meditation
- Prayer
- Fasting
- Worship
- Bible Study
- Evangelism
- Service

... this why discipleship is necessary.

God calls us to do those things that will increase our spiritual discipline and strengthen our faith:

... the more your faith grows the more you will discover even greater, deeper, and higher things in Christ.

We should want our faith to grow and deepen.

... the just LIVE by faith and to draw back away from faith and not desire it is displeasing to God!

You are probably asking, “what kind of believer would ever draw back from the faith.”

... look around ... it is happening in churches everywhere.

... the Christian life of people has become so anemic that many are being guided (not by faith) but by their feelings and emotions

... people measure the value and quality of worship by “how it makes them feel” or “what they experience.”

In a zoom call this past Tuesday **Keith Getty** said has become a huge problem in Christianity.

... people have grown up in churches singing Christless songs that appealed only to their emotions and because they got “a quiver in the liver” they think they are saved

... but they’ve never believed on Jesus ... they’ve never repented of their sins

... that is why 5 years later they are not serving God

... they were emotionally moved ... but they were never spiritually changed.

We should want more and stronger faith from God ...

... and we should **AND NEVER GIVE IT AWAY** for a momentary feeling or emotion.

When we **live for God** by faith ... when we **obey God by faith** in God ... **God is well pleased!**

In the coming year, in our hope to become the kind of church that pleases God, our theme is:

Trust God: Cast the Seed

Thing that should fuel every gospel conversation, every invitation to church, ever Christian tract must be **FAITH!**

Because of our faith in God ... because of our trust in God: **WE WILL CAST THE SEED**

... **INDISCRIMINATELY!!!** Everywhere, in every place, all the time!

Not for numbers!

Not to grow the church!

BUT BECAUSE CHRIST, AND CHRIST ALONE IS WORTHY!

Faith in God should fuel our **loyalty**, our **love**, and our **obedience**.

... It should be the defining line between what God accepts and what God rejects

There must be faith; because without it, it is impossible to please God.

Hebrews 11 is not about the acts of these heroes ... it is about the **FAITH** of those heroes which was the source for every one of those good acts.

Other people have performed heroic deeds, subdued kingdoms, turned to flight armies ...

... others have endured beatings and imprisonments,

... have wandered about destitute, afflicted, tormented

But these things only have eternal values when **they are rooted in true, sincere, faith** in God.

- God gives faith
- God responds to faith
- God accepts faith
- God saves through faith
- God keeps us through faith
- and God honors faith

Hear me today!

In everything we do, not matter how noteworthy and good ... it is only by faith alone that God accepts and rewards it!!!

... “not of works lest anyone should boast!”

I want us to take a few moments and focus on the parents of Moses, but I want us to remember that larger point is not **WHAT** they did ... but **WHAT** fueled their every action.

FAITH!

... Their faith made them brave and led them to defy the government and save their son.

Today I want us to look at the shape and nature of the faith of Moses’ parents.

1. Great Faith Often Goes Unnoticed

By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents

Stephen in his sermon before the Sanhedrin in Acts says, *"It was at this time that Moses was born; and he was lovely in the sight of God, and he was nurtured three months in his father's home. (Acts 7:20)*

Moses who wrote Exodus primarily focuses on his mother ...

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a daughter of Levi. ² The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was beautiful, she hid him for three months. ³ But when she could hide him no longer, she got him a wicker basket and covered it over with tar and pitch. Then she put the child into it and set it among the reeds by the bank of the Nile. (Exod. 2:1-3)

As you can see the faith of the father seems to be almost entirely overlooked ... and would have been if the **writer of Hebrews** hadn't pointed it out for us.

This apparently almost oversight illustrates a key truth about faith.

Jochebed is mentioned and she may have had the stronger faith ... be we aren't told that ... we don't know. (The Bible doesn't say.)

... but we do know that Jochebed did not hide this thing from her husband

... there is no question that he was involved in this because the Holy Spirit tells it was the **FAITH OF THE PARENTS** that hid Moses.

... Stephen says Moses was nourished three months in his father's house.

... there is no question that Moses' father was fully consenting, and agreeing, and assisting in all that Jochebed was doing

- Just because the faith of Moses' father goes relatively unnoticed it was no less genuine and no less essential.

As husband and wives, we are to live and work together for the kingdom of God, and although one may be more visible, even more active or directed ...

... heaven sees us as one.

... the house is divided against itself will not stand

... a home where both husband and wife are committed to Christ and His work ... that home will stand!

Please hear my heart ... if your spouse is a follower of Christ, and you are not, it is my prayer that you will be brought to know Jesus and rest in His saving grace.

... faith is not flamboyant

... and so true faith often goes unnoticed

... but that does not diminish its value, power, strength, work, and necessity of that faith.

Husbands and wives, ... if we are united in our faith and walk then our example is one of unity, power, and solidarity.

... We can't force our children to accept Christ as their Savior... we can't believe for them ... **BUT** we can influence them.

... and there is nothing more influential to children than a father and mother in loving, God honoring, strong faith relationships.

We should never take for granted that our children are watching us (as we interact with each other) ... they are watching

⁴ His sister stood at a distance to find out what would happen to him. ⁵ The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the Nile, with her maidens walking alongside the Nile; and she saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid, and she brought it to her. ⁶ When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the boy was crying. And she had pity on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children." ⁷ Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women that she may nurse the child for you?" ⁸ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go ahead." So, the girl went and called the child's mother. (Exod. 2:4-8)

As an adult we see that Miriam wasn't a perfect person and she made some mistakes ...

... but as a young girl we see in her a reflection of her parents' faith.

... Great faith often goes unnoticed by the world, but it will not go unnoticed in your home.

2. Strong Faith Needs Little Encouragement

By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child

... the main reason for hiding him seems to be that he was a beautiful child

In Acts Stephen tells us that Moses *was lovely in the sight of God*

There was something about this child that was extraordinary.

There is no doubt that the parents of Moses were aware it was near the time when God had promised that the Jews would be delivered from bondage and inhabit the promised land of Canaan.

Moses's parents knew of this promise.

... so, God had promised deliverance, and therefore a deliverer.

... Jochebed's faith in the promise to Abraham that God would deliver his people was strong.

... and something **about this child** gave them hope

... something **emboldened them** to hide the child.

This was all it took for them to hide their child from Pharaoh for 3 months!

If we had the faith of Jochebed, Oh, what things we would do for our Lord Jesus Christ!

She didn't have a Bible

... the man who was to write the first 5 books was her own little child

... all she had was the oral traditions which had been handed down from Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and her fathers. ...

... **AND yet** she believed God and **believed IN** God

... AND THAT ALONE enabled her to risk everything for her child's sake

What about us????

... We have so much more!

“God who in old times spoke to his servants by the prophets in these last days has spoken to us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things.”

God our father has given us Jesus in the flesh ...

... we have been given unbelievable light

It is time to stop saying **“if God would only then I would”** ...

... and start saying **“BECAUSE GOD ALREADY HAS THEN I WILL SERVE HIM WITH EVERY FIBER OF MY BEING!”**

True faith needs only a little encouragement ...

.. and yet God has given us more than a little encouragement

... God has revealed Himself in the person of his only son Jesus Christ ...

3. Authentic Faith Overcomes Fear

²³ By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

The Pharaoh was both king and God

... his edicts caused the nations tremble.

... By his word great pyramids were built, and the peoples of the earth were enslaved.

... His word was absolute law ... **and yet Moses' parents were not afraid.**

I'm not saying their heart didn't flutter ... I'm saying their actions were decisive.

... fear of possible consequences did not alter their steps.

It is my prayer that we will always be a people **who will always do the right thing** even if it costs us everything.

... it is better to be an **unemployed follower** of Jesus Christ than an **employed traitor.**

... better to **lose everything on this earth** for the right than to **prosper in sin.**

Authentic faith should give us the strength to live in this world **not fearing popular opinion,** being censored, or being canceled.

May God give us the faith to be as fearless as Moses' parents.

4. Biblical Faith Moves with God's Activity

⁸ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go ahead." So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹ Then Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him. ¹⁰ The child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. And she named him Moses, and said, "Because I drew him out of the water." (Exod. 2:8-10)

Life is never consistent

... situations are always changing

... the unexpected often happens.

For 3 months they had to hide the baby Moses ...

- ... how many times during those 3 months was the baby almost discovered?
- ... would the neighbors hear the baby crying?
- ... would another family member question why Jochebed was always at home, never leaving the house?

I can imagine there were many times during these three months when their heart was in their throats.

... almost found out ... discovered.

Finally, when they could no longer conceal the child in the home, they put the child in a basket (like a little Noah's ark) and floated him in the Nile River.

Just as Noah prepared an ark for the saving of his family ... Jochebed prepared an ark of reeds for the saving of her son.

But then after putting that baby in the bullrushes Pharaoh's daughter saw the baby, fell in love with the baby, and adopted him ...

... and then (without knowing it) Pharaoh's daughter hired Jochebed (Moses' mother) to nurse and take care of the baby.

Even though the situation was constantly changing ... the faith of Moses' parents remained intact, they just kept adapting to every new circumstance.

... their faith never wavered

... their guiding principles never changed.

... their goal stayed true

Hear me today: our world is in a great upheaval ...

... everything is being re-ordered in unpredictable ways.

... this new “build back better” world is even further from God than the last one.

No matter!!!!

That is inconsequential for the child of God!!!

... our faith will not waver and our guiding principles do not change ...

... and the truth of God’s eternal word that has guided Christians for 2000 years still guides us ...

... it was sufficient for them, and it is still sufficient for us!!!!

5. Simple Faith Brings Reward

Consider for a moment how important the baby Moses was...

... and because of the faith of his parents the nation of Israel had a great deliverer and powerful leader.

... because of their faith the power of Pharaoh was broken

... the whole history of Israel was preserved

... the lineage of Jesus the Messiah was saved

... Oh, you say, *“but God could have done it another way.”*

... *“Yes, He could have, ... but He didn’t, and he didn’t need to.”*

PLEASE SEE THIS TODAY!

You do not know all that you are doing...

... you do not see all that you are affecting and influencing when you choose to live by faith ...

... You will never know how far the ripples will go in the waters of human history when you follow Jesus Christ with faith and passion...

... how we live TODAY will most assuredly matter TOMORROW!

... as the old saying goes, "*great wheels turn on little axles.*"

It is impossible to fully know the influence of a single life lived in Faith for Christ Jesus.

- Do you have faith in God?
- Are you really believing in Him?
- Are you trusting in Jesus Christ?
- Have you accepted Him as your Lord and Savior?

If you have not you are **going the wrong way on everything.**

I wish I could adequately communicate to you the joy of life lived with Christ.

... the peace that can be yours if you would trust in the Lord ...

... because when you trust **IN** Him then you can run **TO** him in every **trouble, trial, and hardship.**

... in sorrow or joy the Lord will keep you steady under every circumstance.

Jesus is all the world to me,
My life, my joy, my all;
He is my strength from day to day,
Without him I would fall:
When I am sad, to him I go,
No other one can cheer me so;
When I am sad, he makes me glad,
He's my friend.

Throughout my life I have seen classmates, friends, family, and associates collapse and fall under every kind of hardship ...

... BUT, BUT, when I went through those exact same hardships, I didn't collapse and fall

... I found underneath me the everlasting arms of an unchanging God

Life became unbearable to them ...

but for me, THE MERCIES OF THE LORD WERE NEW EVERY MORNING.

They turned to drugs, alcohol, and immorality ...

but in even the darkest hour the LORD SUSTAINED ME!

You can say what you want ... you can deny and disbelieve ... but I can tell you

... when I wanted to quit ... give up ... abandon ship ...

... the Lord stepped in and gave me the faith I needed to trust in the God, I could not see ...

... and from that faith came the hope to believe there was a better world to come

... from that faith came a peace unlike any peace I have ever known

That is the wonder of true faith ... and that is **the only explanation** for why I am still here today.

So, what about you?

God loves to save sinners and He receives all those that come to him.

Why not come to him today?

Why not discover for yourself the wonder of faith in Christ.

It is my prayer that TODAY God will give you the faith you need so that your eternal soul will be everlastingly saved.