

Focusing by Faith

Text: Hebrews 11:3-4

Date: 3-16-25

Proofs of faith

A. Proof of Revelation (Heb. 11:2)

B. Proof of Creation (Heb. 11:3)

Do you want proof that Heb. 11:1 is not only possible but true? Just open your eyes and look around at Creation! Not only were the Patriarchs and OT saints given revelation as proof, we all have Creation as proof that God exists and proof of His infinite power.

Ultimately, then, we take Creation by faith. We take revelation by faith. But the evidence exists.

So, the author states that *through faith. . .we understand*. This Greek (*noeo*) word means *to perceive, gain insight, get the meaning of something*. Through faith then, each person can perceive what? That the worlds were framed!

Whether it was when the first man came into being or when any person has been born, every single person that has ever lived has been confronted with the fact of this: the universe was already created. We must take that truth by faith. But, this is also a great proof of faith.

God has not hidden the truth. Do you believe it?

Abel: A better offering (Heb. 11:4)

A. Abel's better sacrifice (Heb. 11:4a)

"Really seeing requires that we limit our focus to the thing that matters most" (Rob Robbins 3).

This faith trusts God and His Word. This faith trusts the promises of God. This faith trusts when things aren't going well humanly speaking.

Faith doesn't always understand how or why or where. Faith is confusing at times. True faith always changes the person and leaves God unchangeable. True faith has a purpose, part we understand and part that we do not comprehend. Faith always is rooted in the invisible God, His character, and His work.

All faith in God flows into active working obedience. A faith that believes God will be demonstrated with works.

Abel brought the better sacrifice. The word *more excellent* (Greek: *polys*) means *more acceptable, more appropriate*.

More important than the type of sacrifice was the faith of the offeror. It wasn't just faith; this was faith in God. This was a right worship of God for Abel's offering centered on the Lord. Abel trusted God, and he obeyed God. Whatever God told him through His revelation, he followed the instructions. The sacrifice pleased God for He had favor on it (Gen. 4:4). But not only was Abel's sacrifice well-pleasing, so was Abel and his character (Gen. 4:4). Abel's heart was right before the Lord.

Abel had the right relationship, the right motivation, and the right process.

Even though Cain brought a sacrifice, it did not meet God's approval. Cain based his sacrifice on works – on what was best for him.

B. Abel's better righteousness (Heb. 11:4b)

Abel not only brought his sacrifice in faith, he bore witness that he was in need of God in his life. He knew he needed a sacrifice.

God knew Abel's heart. He knew he acted in faith and that trust in God led him to obedience. That obedience demonstrated his righteous character. Over and over throughout the Scriptures the pattern is the same. By faith, it was accounted to him [whomever] for righteousness (Abraham in Gen and Rom. 4). This is the only way that man's relationship with God is ever changed.