

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS: DEMONSTRATION OF FAITH HEBREWS 11:2FF

INTRODUCTION:

1. Because of the blood of Jesus, we can have confidence in our relationship with God conditioned on obedience. (Heb. 10.22,36)
2. We have a faith that obeys which gives us confidence made possible by the blood of Jesus. (Heb. 10.39)
3. **HEBREWS 11.1:** *“Now faith is...”* When we accept, trust, and obey God, that gives hope and a conviction of things not seen.
4. The rest of the chapter gives examples of this faith in action.

I. SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF FAITH

- A. There are some specific examples of individuals who demonstrated an obedient faith.
 1. **HEBREWS 11.4-11:** The demonstration of faith by Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and Sarah.
 2. **HEBREWS 11.17-31:** Faith demonstrated by Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Israel, and Rahab.
 3. Seventeen specific examples of individuals who had a faith that accepted, trusted, and obeyed God.
- B. **HEBREWS 11.16:** *“Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.”*
 1. *“Therefore”* God is not ashamed to be called the God of those *“who died in faith”* (Heb. 11.13)
 2. **HEBREWS 11.13-15:** These individuals were convinced that heaven existed and had the hope of being there.

II. GENERAL EXAMPLES OF FAITH

- A. There are some general examples of individuals who demonstrated obedient faith.
 1. **HEBREWS 11.32:** *“And what more can I say?”* There was an abundance of examples demonstrating faith.
 2. These examples show what people did and what they went through as a result of their faith. (Heb. 11.33-37)
- B. **HEBREWS 11.38:** *“of whom the world is not worthy.”*
 1. Do you know people who are so good that the world does not deserve them?
 2. What kind of faith do you demonstrate when people look at your lives and see what you do and experience?

CONCLUSION: “Trust and obey, for there’s no other way.”

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

April 18, 2021

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

THE ONLY ONES GOING TO HEAVEN

Occasionally, brethren will encounter those who will accuse them of saying that we are the only ones who are going to heaven. How do we respond to those who make such accusations?

First, it must be noted that it is God and His word which determines who will and will not enjoy eternal life in heaven. We are told that not everyone has the promise of eternal life. The Bible tells us that only those who are in Christ Jesus and are living by the teachings of scripture are those who have *“no condemnation”* (Rom. 8.1). That is, those who get into Jesus by having faith and being baptized (Gal. 3.26,27), and live in obedience to the will of God (Heb. 10.36) will receive the promise of eternal life.

There is nothing that can be said, argued, or theorized to change the clear teachings of scripture. No matter how much I want to believe that everyone who goes to some kind of church will be saved, it does not change what the Bible teaches. No matter how much I want to interpret the scriptures to make them fit my theology, it does not make my theology true (2 Pet. 3.16). If we do not do what God says to do in order to be forgiven, we will not be among those who are saved. If, after we are forgiven, we do not live the way God wants us to live, we will not be among those who are saved. Having said that, how can we respond to those who accuse us of being the only ones going to heaven? [continued inside]

HAS GOD DISAPPOINTED YOU? 2 CORINTHIANS 4:17

INTRODUCTION:

1. How do you take what life throws at you?
2. When tragedy hits, we ought to turn to God in faith rather than turning away from Him in disappointment.
3. God allows us to suffer because it makes us better.

I. TRAGEDY HELPS YOU LOOK FORWARD

- A. Looking forward to the hope of heaven. (Rom. 5.1,2)
 1. **ROMANS 5.1:** Having faith results in justification.
 2. **ROMANS 5.2:** Having been justified, you can rejoice over the hope of heaven. (cf. Prov. 13.12; 11.7)
- B. Looking forward to becoming a better you. (Rom. 5.3-5)
 1. **ROMANS 5.3:** We rejoice in tribulations.
 2. **ROMANS 5.3:** Tribulations produce something in you.
 3. **ROMANS 5.3:** “*perseverance*” (hupomeno)
 4. **ROMANS 5.4:** “*character, hope.*” You have the hope of heaven because tribulation helped develop character.
- C. Paul had a positive attitude during extreme hardship.
 1. **2 CORINTHIANS 4.7-10:** Though we suffer, we are not out yet. We are still fighting!
 2. **2 CORINTHIANS 4.16-18:** Life is hard, but we will not lose heart. It is making us better Christians.

II. TRAGEDY HELPS YOU LOOK ABOVE

- A. Tragedy helps you look up to Jesus. (Heb. 12.1-3)
 1. This passage teaches us that life is hard. (Heb. 12.3,5,11)
 2. This passage teaches us to endure. (Heb. 12.1-3,7)
 3. How do we endure? Look to Jesus. (Heb. 12.2,3; 4.15)
- B. Tragedy helps you look up to God. (Heb. 12.4-11)
 1. **HEBREWS 12.4-7:** As a loving father, God allows us to suffer to make us better. (Prov. 22.15; 29.15)
 2. **HEBREWS 12.11:** Present suffering, but there are benefits afterward. Looking to God by looking forward.
- C. **JAMES 1.2-5:** Tragedy makes us better, and God can help us work through it.

CONCLUSION: Whatever tragedy you face in life, you can rise above it by looking forward and looking up.

THE ONLY ONES GOING TO HEAVEN [continued from front]

ATTITUDE: First, we must maintain a proper mindset. Often our immediate reaction is to go on the defensive. Our goal should always be to help the lost become saved. We are to always strive to have the same mission as Christ, “*to seek and save that which is lost*” (Luke 19.10). The only way to help others see what the Bible says and help them become one who is forgiven is to respond with a mindset of humility and gentleness. In other words, respond with the mind of Christ (Phil. 2.5).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: When others accuse us of arrogantly believing that we are the only ones going to heaven, they are acting on a false premise. Most of the world sees the Lord’s church as being a collection of different denominations with the “church of Christ” being one among them. If that were true, any one of the denominations claiming to have the exclusive path to heaven is indeed arrogant. Acknowledging why they are accusing us helps us to formulate a proper response. We can then patiently take them to the scriptures and show them that Jesus is the only way to God (John 14.6). Therefore only the followers of Christ are saved. From there, we then do three things. First, we show them from the scriptures how to become a follower of Christ. Second, we show them how to identify His church. And third, we show them how to become a member of His church.

ACCEPT: In spite of responding with humility and gentleness, patiently taking them to the scriptures to explain the Bible’s teachings on who are the saved, some will still refuse to listen to the teachings of scripture. What should we do? Don’t become angry. Don’t be insulting or hurtful. Simply accept the fact that there are some who will not listen. Remember what Jesus taught in Matthew 5.11,12: “*Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*”

Since the beginning of time, God’s people have been misunderstood and falsely accused. Among the many accusations, we have been called a cult because we hold to the teachings of scripture in reference to the exclusivity of the church. With a proper approach we can help others see what the Bible says in reference to salvation, and bring others to Christ...one soul at a time. CLP