

Prayer should not be
our last option
but our first choice.

HEBREWS 11... BY FAITH A MORE EXCELLENT SACRIFICE

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

I. NOW FAITH IS... PRESENT TENSE.. WE MUST KEEP OUR FAITH ACTIVE ON A DAILY BASIS! "A SHIP DOES NOT SAIL ON YESTERDAYS WINDS."
WE OFTEN DO WHAT MARY DID IN JOHN 11... "LORD IF YOU HAD BEEN HERE"...
PUT FAITH IN THE PAST... "I KNOW ONE DAY IN THE RESSURRECTION".. PUSH FAITH INTO THE FUTURE. FAITH IS BOTH ACTIVE AND PRO-ACTIVE. IT IS RESPONDING TO DAILY LIFE... AND BELIEVING FOR THE FUTURE.

A. WE MUST CONSTANTLY BE CULTIVATING OUR FAITH. **Jude 1:20** But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,
— **Romans 10:17** So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

FAITH IS THE SUBSTANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR... EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN."
FAITH IS THE FOUNDATION ON WHICH WE BUILD OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE.
IT HAS SUBSTANCE... THE SCRIPTURE.. GOD'S PROMISES..
IT HAS EVIDENCE: THINGS ALREADY OBTAINED, GOD'S ACTIVE PRESENCE. WE MUST TAKE OUR FAITH AND PUT IT TO WORK IN OUR DAILY LIVES!!

Hebrews 11:4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

II. WHY WAS HIS SACRIFICE MORE EXCELLENT?

A. IT WAS OFFERED UP BY FAITH... WE MUST SIEZE UPON THIS POINT!! TO OFTEN WE ARE JUST PERFORMING RELIGIOUS FUNCTIONS... NOT REALLY BELIEVING!!

B. IT WAS THE PROPER SACRIFICE... OBEDIENCE TO GO

A FEW EXAMPLES: D'S WILL.

1. WE MUST PRAY IN FAITH....**Mark 11:24** Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*.
WHEN YOU PRAY BELIEVE!! IT IS MORE THAN A DUTY, A RITUAL, IT IS AN ACT OF FAITH!! HOW CAN OUR PRAYER LIFE BE MORE EXCELLENT? BY FAITH!!
2. WE MUST LABOR IN FAITH... **James 2:22** Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? WHETHER IT IS OUTREACH, A BIBLE STUDY, A SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS, LAY ING HANDS ON THE SICK..
WE CAN OFFER A MORE EXCELLENT SACRIFICE BY FAITH!!
- \ 3. GIVING... **Luke 6:38** Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

Malachi 3:10 (KJV)

¹⁰ Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it*.

WHAT A POWERFUL PROMISE!! DO WE GIVE OUT OF DUTY.. OR DO WE GIVE BY FAITH?

"If I'm going to work; I want to get things done."

Abel

B. IT WAS THE PROPER SACRIFICE... OBEDIENCE TO GOD WILL.(WORD)

Colossians 2:12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with *him* through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

WE ARE BELIEVING GOD TO DOUBLE THIS CHURCH... CAN WE PRAY MORE? GIVE MORE? DO MORE? WORK HARDER? WE PROBABLY CAN DO BETTER!!
BUT WHATEVER WE DO ... I BELIEVE THE KEY TO A MORE EXCELLENT SACRIFICE...
A MORE FRUITFUL AND EFFECTIVE MINISTRY... WHATEVER WE DO.. DO IT BY FAITH!!

III. A FEW MORE KEYS TO EXERCISING OUR FAITH!!

Hebrews 11:5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

1. ENOCH WALKED WITH GOD BY FAITH!!

Genesis 5:23-24 And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years:

²⁴ And Enoch walked with God: and he *was* not; for God took him.

WHATEVER WE FACE IN DAY TO DAY LIFE ... IN OUR DAILY WALK WE CAN DEAL WITH IT BY FAITH!! IF ENOCH WALKED WITH GOD 365 YEARS ... I CAN WALK WITH GOD THE NEXT 365 DAYS!!

1 John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith.

Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

2. BY FAITH NOAH BUILT AN ARK... HE PREPARED FOR THE COMING JUDGEMENT!!
PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT PREPARING FOR THE COMING OF THE LORD AND ETERNAL LIFE ... HAVE A LACK OF FAITH.

3. **1 John 3:1-3** And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.
IF YOU REALLY BELIEVE THIS ... YOU ARE MAKING PREPARATIONS!!

Hebrews 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten *son*,

BY FAITH ABRAHAM OBEYED GOD... NO MATTER HOW GREAT THE SACRIFICE WAS.
BECAUSE OF HIS OBEDIENCE, FAITH ... HE RECEIVED A GREATER REVELATION OF GOD!! HE SAW JEHOVAH-JIREH PROVIDE THE MIRACULOUS!!

WE MAY NOT UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY, OR SEE CLEARLY... BUT WE WALK BY FAITH NOT BY SIGHT!! FAITH WILL BRING REWARDS AND MIRACLES INTO OUR LIFE!!