

Noah exemplifies faith working

Abel was faith worshipping

Enoch was faith walking

Noah is faith working

- The worship of faith
- The walk of faith
- The work of faith

This is the order of things as ordained by God

- We have a tendency to reverse God's order (or worse, skip steps altogether)

Enoch's **walk of faith** must come before Noah's **work of faith**—and this in turn must be preceded by Abel's **worship of faith**.

- Worship **of** Him
- Walk **with** Him
- Witness **for** Him
 - This is heaven's unchanging order
 - Hebrews 11 (**The life of faith**) does not begin with Noah—but with Able

Working often (mistakenly) takes priority over worshipping

- This is a huge failure—individually and ecclesialogically (in the church)
 - Recall what Jesus' reaction to both **Martha and Mary**
 - Cf. **Mark 14:9**
 - A. W. Tozer says we need to make worshipers first

We need to pay careful attention to the order and detail of things as supplied by the Holy Spirit in Scripture

- “**God is a God of order and the moment we depart from His arrangements confusion, with all its attendant evils, at once ensues.**”¹
 - Giving ourselves **to** God
 - Walking **with** God
 - Working **for** God

Perhaps it will help us if we understand the basis on which we are invited into God's work

- God does not need us (a freeing truth—Israel and not David)
- Only because of love are we invited in

¹ Arthur W. Pink, *An Exposition of Hebrews* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1988), 668.

What can we glean from Noah's life of faith? **Genesis 6:5-14^a**

Belief, Adjustment, Building

Three actions of the life of the faith we see with Noah

1. He **believed** what God said about the future
2. He **adjusted** his life accordingly
3. He **built** the ark faithfully
 - Believe, adjust, build (Faith does this)

Three outcomes of Noah's faith

1. His family was saved
2. The wicked were proven wrong
3. He was considered righteous

So we see the value of **belief, adjustment, and building**

Belief (that is sincere) always brings life adjustments

With reverence and obedience Noah took God at His word.

- God's message may have seemed foolish but Noah **believed it** and staked everything on it
- With much less evidence and way more opposition than we have (we have the Church)
 - **Genesis 6:8-9** (Place, Path, Pace)
- His life became concentrated and purposeful for God's plan
 - The choice comes to every person whether or not to believe God's word.
 - In heeding God's word Noah **avoided disaster** (for his family too)
 - Cf. Psalm 119 (**by them your servant is warned**)
 - God's warning may come to us in many ways
 - The Bible
 - Prophetic voice
 - The church
 - Conscience
 - Advice or rebuke from Godly people
 - A sermon
 - Circumstances
 - Where ever it comes, if we neglect it, we are in peril (**Joshua 1:7**)
- Sincere belief always brings life adjustment

Adjustments are those things we do to make our lives more consonant (in harmony with) God's heart and will

Faith moved Noah to action—Faith moves us to action

- Faith and obedience are bound up together
- If one trusts he obeys, if he obeys he trusts
- What you do is what you believe
 - That well-worn proverb “[Actions speak louder than words](#)”

No doubt, Noah had to re-arrange things a little to spend the next 120 years building a boat!

- He did so because he really believed what God said (didn't always feel like it)
- My life

Because Noah made certain adjustments, he was able to build for God's purposes

Building is what we do when we are convinced that God's will and glory and kingdom are most important

Believing, adjusting, building

- What do you believe God has said or is doing that would cause you to make adjustments?
- How can you be building for God's purposes?
- Why aren't you?

What made what Noah did a great **work of faith**?

- Why did it require faith?
- How can we relate?

The Culture, The Call, The Task

The Culture—Wicked:

- Exceedingly wicked
- [Genesis 6:5, 11](#)
- There was no one:

◦ Holding his hand	◦ Praying for him
◦ Cheering him on	◦ Helping him
◦ Holding him accountable	◦ Leading him
◦ Showing him how	◦ Following him

 - In fact, I am sure they were ruthlessly mocking him ([Hey, Noah](#))
 - Kept on task for 120 years! **That is a life of faith**

The Call—Unprecedented:

- Unprecedented
- There had never been an event ([flood](#)) like this before
 - But Noah's faith supplied the proof ([assurance](#)) of [things not seen](#) (11:1)
[Faith means being sure of things we hope for and knowing that something is real even if we do not see it.](#) (NCV)
 - Faith has to do with the **future** ([things hoped for](#)) and the **unseen**

- His righteousness consisted of that fact that he took God at His word
 - When other men broke God's commandments he kept them
 - When other men were def to God's warnings Noah listened to them
 - When other men laughed at God, Noah revered him
 - When other men disregarded God, Noah saw him as the supreme reality in the world

The Task—Overwhelming:

- Overwhelming
- Noah was far inland (Mesopotamia, between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers)
- Noah had never seen a boat before (Much less built one)
- The thing was huge!

Because of the **culture**, the **call** and the **task** Noah needed faith!

How can we relate?

We live in a **cultural** context more similar to Noah's than we think

- Extreme wickedness and coming judgment
- In the NT the context of Noah's day is a illustration of sudden judgment, a foreshadowing of the coming of the Son of Man
 - Matthew 24:37-39
 - 37 When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah's day.**
 - 38 In those days** before the flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat.
 - 39 People didn't realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes.**

We have a **call** more similar to Noah's than we think

By faith, Noah being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence **prepared** and ark for the salvation of his household (Hebrews 11:7^a)

Prepare = κατασκευάζω (*kataskeuazō*)

- to prepare, to furnish, to adorn fully with a thing, to get ready
- Anciently: It was used of getting things ready (preparing the way) for a visiting king
- Used of the work of John the Baptist in **preparing the way** for the messiah

We do not prepare and ark (Christ is the ark)

- But we are called to get people into the ark
- Noah's building of it was a sermon

Noah was a **preacher of righteousness** (II Peter 2:5)

- Noah is the only one in the whole OT who is called a **preacher** (herald)

We do this by making Jesus and the Gospel known—living and proclaiming

He believed it and acted on it even though it was **120 years** out (Gen 6:3)—we are a lot closer than that (I believe)!!

- Therefore we need to be faithful stewards and not wicked slaves
- Matthew 25:44-51

44 **For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming** at an hour when you do not think He will.

45 **Who then is the faithful and sensible slave** whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time?

46 **Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes.**

47 Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

48 But if **that evil slave** says in his heart, **'My master is not coming for a long time,'**

49 and begins to beat his fellow slaves and eat and drink with drunkards;

50 the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour which he does not know,

51 and will cut him in pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

- That doesn't sound good
- Therefore, in light of what we know God said is coming—i.e. **By Faith**
 - We need to make adjustments and **preparations**

The culture and the call, which we have in common with Noah, beckon us to build for God

We have a **task** more similar to Noah's than we think

We have an enormous task in front of us in confronting the culture with Christ

Therefore we need to build for God's glory with **reverence** (Hebrews 11:1)

Reverence = εὐλαβέομαι (*eulabeomai*)²

- to be thoughtful, cautious, circumspect
- To be afraid (in the sense of reverently)
 - To be moved or impressed with natural or religious fear
- **Reverential fear that causes action;** immediate obedience
 - Noah believed God out of reverence and that reverential belief moved him to action
 - Perhaps the disconnect for us is that there is no fear of God
 - Return to the order of things: **Worship, Walking... Working**
- **You must build your:** Family, church, relationships, community—to the Glory of God!

We do these things according to what we believe—**by faith**

1. We believe God is going to **judge** the world
2. We believe that God wants to **save** people
3. We believe that God has **provided** a way

² Definition from Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary (NT)*, 676.

So, we adjust our lives accordingly so that we can build reverently

We are not called to build an ark, that has been done once and for all—**Christ is the ark of salvation**—Noah's Ark was a prophetic picture

- But we are called to the same level of commitment, perseverance, and single-mindedness
- 1 Corinthians 15:58

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, **knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.**

Getting people into the ark

- Lest they be judged
- Partnered with the Holy Spirit (John 16:8)

And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment

We need to be **faithful** to the task of living and proclaiming the Gospel—the rest is up to God

We must be faithful to the message

- Christ and The Gospel
- This is what it means to be a **preacher of righteousness**
 - Not that we preach morals (per say)
- If people will not listen to or **endure sound doctrine** (1 Tim 4:1; 2 Tim 4:3)
 - We are not to seek for something else which they will endure
 - We simply **preach the word** (2 Tim 4:2) (The Gospel)

We must learn that in all our **work** and **witness** for God **faithfulness** is the only measure for success

- We are called to be faithful
 - Apply to your marriage, kids, work etc
 - **That was all Noah saved**
 - **And all he did was build a boat**
 - Yet he is in the hall of faith and called righteous and a preacher of righteousness!

Believe, adjust, and build knowing your **culture, call, and task**—to the Glory of God!