

ATTAINING TO THE CONSUMMATION BY FAITH

(Hebrews 11)

Message 1

The Definition of Faith (Heb. 11:1-3)

- I. The substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen**
 - A. Hunger for the substance of God's word
(John 1:14; 1 John 1:1; 1 Cor. 3:12-14; Rev. 3:18a)
 - B. God's ability to call those things which do not exist as though they did (Rom. 4:17; Ps. 33:9; Gen 1:3; 2 Cor. 4:6)
 - C. By the spirit of faith (2 Cor. 4:13)
 1. Experiencing the living God daily
 2. Taking care of an inner, hidden relationship to God
(Matt. 6:6; Jam. 2:23; Rev. 2:17)
- II. The source of faith**
 - A. God Himself
(Mark 11:22-24; Luke 17:5-6; Eph. 2:8; 2 Pet. 1:1)
 - B. The word of God (Rom. 10:17; 1 Thess. 2:13)
 - C. God's appearing in our spirit
(Mark 16:9-14; Luke 24:31-35)
- III. Activating the faith in us**
 - A. In order to enter into His rest
(Deut. 1:30-32; Heb. 3:19; 4:1-7)
 - B. Pursuing faith and calling upon the Lord
(2 Tim. 2:22; Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:6)
 - C. Speaking the word of God (2 Cor. 4:13; Eph. 5:18-19)
 - D. Willing to exercise faith (Mark 9:24)

Message 2

By Faith Abel Offered to God a More Excellent Sacrifice (Heb. 11:4)

I. Without a sacrificial lamb there is no forgiveness of sins

- A. Since the fall of man, a sacrifice is necessary for the forgiveness of transgressions (Heb. 2:2)
- B. God Himself showed man this example (Gen. 3:21)
 - 1. Adam and Eve passed on the good news of their salvation
 - 2. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins (Heb. 9:22)
 - 3. A tunic of skin as a cover – no leaves! (Gal. 3:27)
 - 4. Cain became a farmer, Abel a shepherd (Rom. 8:6)
- C. Cain served God according to his own judgement (Gen. 4:1-6)
 - 1. He brought an offering of the fruits from his field (v. 3)
 - 2. God did not respect Cain and his offering (v. 5)
 - 3. Religious jealousy led to the killing of his brother (v. 8)
 - 4. Cain went out from the presence of the Lord (v. 16)
- D. Abel served God in faith
 - 1. Praying in the spirit (John 4:24)
 - 2. Serving in the spirit (Rom 1:9)

II. Christ, the Lamb of God (John 1:29)

- A. Only Christ, as our sacrificial lamb, can take away our sins
- B. Coming forward to God in faith through Him (Heb. 4:16)
- C. He is our propitiation (Rom. 3:24-25)

Message 3

Enoch – Walking with God (Heb. 11:5)

I. The rapture

- A. Enoch's example (Gen. 5:21-24)
- B. The overcomers at the end of this age (Rev. 12:3-5)
- C. Our goal today: pleasing God by faith to be raptured to His throne (Eph. 5:10-11)

II. A walk with God

- A. Pleasing God in the Spirit (Rom. 8:8-10)
 - 1. Following the Lamb (Rev. 14:4; Matt. 16:24)
 - 2. Taking care of the relationship with the Lord
 - 3. Walking in the fear of God – Methuselah: "It will come when he dies" (Gen. 5:21; Is. 33:6)
 - 4. For me to live is Christ (Phil. 1:21)
- B. The turn in Enoch's life (Gen. 5:22)
- C. Enoch walked with God for 300 years
 - 1. Redeeming the time (Eph. 5:17; Matt. 28:20)
 - 2. Exercising to walk with God
- D. Seeking the Lord continuously – what testimony do I have from Him? (Heb. 11:5)

Message 4

Seeking God with Faith (Heb. 11:6)

I. People according to God's good pleasure: Enoch, Abraham, David, Daniel, Jesus Christ (Matt. 3:17)

II. Without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6; 10:38-39)

III. Believing that God is

- A. Believing who God is: Creator, Redeemer, Father
(Heb. 11:3; Col. 1:15-20; Rom. 1:20; Job 19:25;
John 20:17)
- B. Believing what God can do (Rom. 4:20-21)

IV. Coming forward to God

(Heb. 4:14-16; 7:25; 10:22; 12:22)

- A. Seeking Him (Ps. 105:3-4; 14:2; 27:8; 2 Chron. 15:2-7;
Is. 55:6; Matt. 7:7; 1 Cor. 1:22; Col. 3:1)
- B. Prerequisites to finding Him
 1. Cleansing yourself (Matt. 5:8; 2 Tim. 2:22)
 2. Seeking Him earnestly, with your whole heart
 3. Finding Him in the word, in prayer, in the spirit,
and in the church; that means, getting to know Him
(Is. 55:6; Jer. 29:12-14; 33:3; Phil. 3:7-10)

V. God seeks and rewards faith

(Luke 18:8; Matt. 8:10; 16:25)

VI. The reward to following Him

(Luke 18:28-30; Phil. 3:11, 14)

Message 5**Building the Ark by Faith** (Heb. 11:7)**I. The age of Noah** (Gen. 6:5-7)

- A. Every intent of their hearts was only evil continually (v. 5)
- B. The earth was corrupt before God (v. 11)
- C. Our age – as in Noah’s days (Matt. 24:37-39)

II. Noah’s character (Gen. 6:8)

- A. He was a just man
- B. Perfect in his generations
- C. He found grace in the eyes of the Lord (Gen. 6:8; Heb. 4:16)

III. Noah's work (Gen. 6)

- A. He walked with God (v. 9)
- B. He built the ark (v. 14-22)
- C. By faith he condemned the world (Heb. 11:7)
- D. He became heir of the righteousness (Heb. 11:7)

IV. We want to turn this age

- A. Walking by the spirit (Gal. 5:16, 22-25)
- B. Giving ourselves for the building up of the church (1 Pet. 2:9)
- C. Preaching the gospel (Rom. 1:9, 15; 1 Pet. 4:17)
- D. Inheriting God's promises (Heb. 6:12; Rev. 21:7)

Message 6

Called for the City of the Living God

(Heb. 11:8-10, 13-16)

I. Our calling

- A. God calls us out (Acts 26:17-18; Rev. 18:4-5; Deut. 12:2-4)
- B. God calls people for His kingdom (Heb. 8:10; 1 Thess. 2:12)
- C. God seeks people, who listen and obey by faith (Heb. 11:8; Matt. 8:5-13; Acts 26:19)

II. The nature of the City of God (Heb. 12:22-23)

- A. The foundation is laid – God's choice is final (Ps. 132:13-14; Deut. 12:4-5, 13-14; Ps. 133:3)
- B. The city of the living God (Heb. 12:22-23)
- C. Holy, new, heavenly, of God and unchangeable (Rev. 21:2-5, 9-27)
- D. God is the builder and maker (Heb. 11:10)

III. Laying hold of our portion of the city

- A. Seeking His kingdom (Heb. 11:10, 16; Matt. 6:33)
- B. Entering through the gates into the city (Rev. 22:14-15)
- C. Beholding the glory of the Lord in Zion

Message 7

Spreading the Gospel by Faith (Heb. 11:11-12)

I. The gospel is important for God's purpose

- A. God desires all men to be saved and to come to the full knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:3-4; Ezek. 18:23)
- B. God needs us for the gospel (Gen. 18:9-15; Acts 10:5, 22, 42)
- C. God is able and He enables us (Gen. 18:11-12, 14a; Acts 1:8; 2 Tim. 1:7-8)

II. A life for the spreading of the gospel

- A. Receiving power (Acts 1:8)
 - 1. Strengthened by the nourishment of the word (Jer. 15:16; Rev. 2:7; Ps. 5:4)
 - 2. Praying for the gospel (Eph. 6:10-20; 1 Tim. 2:1)
 - 3. Preaching the word and taking the opportunities (Rom. 10:14-17; 2 Tim. 1:13; 4:1-2)
 - 4. Overcoming our fear of man (John 18:25-27; 20:19; Acts 2:14)
- B. Not giving up, but rather going on in faith (Rom. 4:19-21; Luke 8:15)
- C. Increasing in number instead of decreasing (Ps. 144:13; Jer. 30:19)

Message 8

Abraham's Faith (Heb. 11:17-19)

I. Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness (Gal. 3:6)

II. The last test of Abraham's faith: the sacrifice at Moriah (Gen. 22:1-14)

- A. Abraham's willingness to sacrifice through his belief in resurrection

- B. God reveals His purpose through the father of faith (Rom. 4)
- C. God let His only and beloved Son die on the cross, so that we can be justified by faith (Rom. 3:21-26; 1 Pet. 2:23-24)

III. Christ, the Crucified and Resurrected One in us

(1 Cor. 2:2; 2 Cor. 13:5; Col. 1:27)

- A. Taking up my cross, that means applying the cross (Matt. 16:24-28)
- B. Receiving the Spirit by faith (Gal. 3:2-3)
- C. Keeping nothing back from the Lord (Gen. 20:12; Ps. 139:1-6, 23-24)
- D. Looking away unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith (Heb. 12:1-2; Gal. 3:2-3; 1 Thess. 3:10)

Message 9

Moses – Do Not Love the World (Heb. 11:23-27)

I. The world (Exo. 1:9-14; Exo. 5:1-19)

- A. Passing pleasure of sin (Heb. 11:25; 2 Tim. 3:1-4)
 - 1. Lovers of self
 - 2. Lovers of money
 - 3. Lovers of pleasure
- B. Treasures in Egypt (Heb. 11:26; 1 John 2:15-17)
 - 1. Lust of the flesh (1 Thess. 4:1-7; 2 Tim. 2:21-22)
 - 2. Lust of the eyes (Num. 11:4-6)
 - 3. Pride of life
- C. The world is passing away (1 John 2:17; 1 Pet. 1:24-25; Rev. 21:1)
- D. The price of living in the world – no time for God
 - 1. Hard work (Exo. 1:9-14)
 - 2. Bound in slavery (Exo. 1:14; 2:23)
 - 3. No idle time to serve God (Exo. 5:1-19)
 - 4. Cannot serve two masters (Matt. 6:24)

II. Our attitude towards the world (1 John 2:15)

- A. Not afraid of the king's command (Heb. 11:23)
 - 1. Midwives feared God (Exo. 1:17, 20-21)
 - 2. Parents were not afraid of Pharaoh (Exo. 2:1-10)
- B. Refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter (Heb. 11:24)
- C. Not fearing the wrath of the king (Heb. 11:27)

III. Our choice

- A. Choosing to suffer affliction with the people of God (Heb. 11:25; Exo. 6:9; 1.Pet. 5:10; Rom. 8:18)
- B. Esteeming the reproach of Christ great riches (Heb. 11:26; Phil. 3:7; Luke 14:33; Exo. 8:5-6; Heb. 12:5-11)
- C. Looking to the reward (Heb. 11:26)
 - 1. The good land (Exo. 3:8, 10; Deu. 8:7-10)
 - 2. The spiritual blessings in the heavenlies in Christ (Eph. 1:3-14)
- D. Forsaking Egypt (Heb. 11:27)
- E. Enduring as seeing Him who is invisible (Heb. 11:27)

Message 10**Moses – God's Judgment of the World** (Heb. 11:28-29)**I. Christ as our Passover** (Heb. 11:28; 1.Cor. 5:7)

- A. After 9 plagues, Pharaoh's grip on Israel is still so strong (Exo. 11:10)
- B. God's judgment (Heb. 11:28-29)
 - 1. Destroying all firstborns in Egypt (Exo. 12:29-30)
 - 2. Ultimate destruction of the world (Rev. 18:7)
- C. Salvation only by the shedding of His blood (Exo. 12:2-7, 12-13)
- D. The Lamb of God sacrificed for us (John 1:29; 1.Cor. 5:7; Rev. 14:1)

II. The blood of Christ

- A. Cleanse our conscience to serve the living God (Heb. 9:14-15)
 - 1. The forgiveness of sins (Eph. 1:7)
 - 2. Restore our daily fellowship with the Lord (1 John 1:6-10)
- B. Overcome the world (Rev. 12:10; Rev. 14:1-5)
- C. Praising the Lord for all that He has done to release us from Egypt (Psalms 135-136; 1 Cor. 11:23-26)

III. Passing through the Red Sea – the reality of baptism

(Heb. 11:29)

- A. Passing through the sea as on dry land – leaving Egypt, Satan’s domain
- B. The Egyptians also attempted it and drowned – annihilation of the enemy and the powers of darkness (Heb. 2:14-15; Col. 1:13; John 5:24; Acts 26:18)
- C. His death is our victory – we have been baptized into His death – all worldly ways, habits and tastes (Rom. 6:4-6; Gal. 2:20; 5:24)
- D. Standing upon the reality of baptism by faith (1 Pet. 3:21)
 - 1. We have been put into Christ and thus have become heirs (Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27; Tit. 3:5, 7)
 - 2. Put into the body of Christ, His church (1 Cor. 12:13)

Message 11

Joshua – By Faith Knowing and Following the Lord

- I. The fall of the wall of Jericho – the beginning of conquering the good land with the next generation**
(Heb. 11:30; Josh. 6)

II. Getting to know the Lord in our youth (Ps. 144:12)

- A. Joshua did not depart from the tabernacle (Ex. 33:11)
 - 1. Setting our priority to know the will of God (Eph. 5:15-17)
 - 2. Knowing and believing the word (2 Tim. 3:15)
 - 3. Being instructed by the word, not only enjoying the word (2 Tim. 3:16)
 - 4. Abiding in the word – meditating in it (2 Tim. 3:14; Josh. 1:8; Prov. 28:4)
 - 5. Being perfected in our walk (Ps. 119:9)
 - 6. Being equipped for every good work (2 Tim. 3:17)
- B. The Spirit was upon him (Num. 27:18)
- C. He followed the Lord faithfully (Num. 32:12; Ps. 139:23-24; John 21:22)
- D. He was courageous and willing to take possession of the good land together with Caleb (Num. 13:30; 14:6-9)

III. The harlot Rahab

- A. By faith, saved from perishing with the disobedient ones (Heb. 11:31)
- B. Included in the genealogy of Jesus (Matt. 1:5)

Message 12**The Nazirites and Judges** (Heb. 11:32-34)**I. Gideon the Judge – though faith he became valiant in battle** (Judges 6:11-40; Chap. 7)

- A. Negotiating with the living God (Gen. 18:22-33)
 - 1. Coming forward to God with boldness (Heb. 10:19-22; 2 Tim. 1:7)
 - 2. Not being indifferent, but rather lamenting before the Lord for His purpose (Ps. 142:3, 7)
 - 3. Humbling yourself under the Lord (1 Pet. 5:5-7)
 - 4. Receiving confirmation from God (Ps. 132:15-18)

- B. Fighting the good fight of faith (1 Tim. 6:12)
 - 1. Not by our own strength (Ps. 147:10-11; Eph. 6:10)
 - 2. Trusting the Lord completely (2 Cor. 1:9; Phil. 3:3)
 - 3. Experiencing the Lord's victory and giving Him the honor (Deut. 8:17-18; 1 Cor. 15:57)

II. Samuel the Nazirite – serving the Lord through faith and love (1 Sam. 1:11, 28; 2:18, 26; Deut. 10:12-13)

- A. The principle of the Nazirite (Num. 6:1-6)
 - 1. Completely giving yourself to the Lord willingly (Rom. 12:1; 2 Cor. 5:14-15; 8:5; Rev. 14:4)
 - 2. Rejecting the enjoyment of the world (Ps. 141:4)
 - 3. Resisting death (Rom. 5:17)
- B. Samuel's ministry before the Lord
 - 1. Called out from the midst of a crooked and perverse generation (1 Sam. 3:1-14; Phil. 2:15-16)
 - 2. Experiencing the reality of God's speaking (1 Sam. 3:19-21; Josh. 21:44-45; Col. 1:5-6)
 - 3. Establishing the obedience of faith (1 Sam. 15:22-23; Rom. 1:5; Heb. 5:9)

Message 13

Willing to Act and to Suffer According to God's Will (Heb. 11:32-38)

I. By faith following the Lord's speaking

- A. Not acting according to our human limitations but rather according to His word (Judges 6:14-16)
- B. Being conscious that God is living and that we can count on Him, when we give ourselves to Him (1 Sam. 17:26-30, 45-47)

II. By faith being prepared to suffer for the Lord's sake

- A. Not being ashamed when we suffer for the Lord's sake (2 Tim. 1:7-8, 12; 1 Pet. 4:12-19)
 - 1. The Spirit of glory and the Spirit of God rest upon us
 - 2. According to the measurement by which we suffer, we can be glad (Rom. 8:17-18)
- B. We do not look at the sufferings, but rather unto the Lord (Heb. 11:35; 12:2-3; Acts 7:54-56; 2 Cor. 4:17-18)

Message 14**So That They Should Not Be Made Perfect Apart from Us** (Heb. 11:39-40; 12:1-2)**I. "All these" – examples from the Old Testament****II. By faith they have obtained a testimony – the testimony to please God** (Heb. 11:5-6)**III. They did not receive the promise**

- 1. A homeland (Heb. 11:13-14)
- 2. The city which has foundations (Heb. 11:9-10)
- 3. God's eternal purpose

IV. God has provided something better for us

- 1. Provided for us
- 2. A better covenant (Heb. 8:6)
- 3. A better resurrection (Heb. 11:35)
- 4. One day in the church is better than a thousand elsewhere (Ps. 84:10)
- 5. Looking away unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith (Heb. 12:1-2)

V. So that they should not be made perfect apart from us

- 1. The age of perfection
- 2. Perfection through the overcomers