

Veteran of Faith

Sunday Morning, November 11, 2013

Thesis: Persevere to be a Veteran of Faith in God!

Introduction: Veteran's Day 2013 -

For centuries now, soldiers have sought to protect and promote "freedom" in our country and abroad.

Two primary aspects of "freedom" valued in America and protected by our Constitution's First Amendment in the Bill of Rights are:

Freedom of Speech

Freedom of Religion

These two promote "patriotism" in our country, because they allow for individual rights.

May we remember the sacrifices of the military and their families for the freedoms we hold dear.

Faith, Freedom, Patriotism, protection of Israel and God's blessings have kept our country strong.

These very virtues of America are being squelched today by socialistic values, unity of ecumenical faiths and global unity goals.

Remember those who stood and sacrificed themselves to make our country strong!

Likewise, the Christian Faith must be upheld that others may see the Truth of God.

Let's Stand for the reading of God's Word.

(Hebrews 11: 1 – 7)

1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

2 This is what the ancients were commended for.

3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

4 By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.

5 By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. *(Passage continued on flip side)*

6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

7 By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

(You may be seated)

I. What is Faith? (Hebrews 11:1)

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Ordinary people with weaknesses of their own

Having faith in the "substance" or "evidence" or being "sure of" faith.

Examples:

My Salvation

My Relationship with God

My Hope in His Promises

"I believe God and that His Word is Truth."

Do you believe God? His Word? His Truth?

Sin keeps people from knowing God!

If you believe in God and that His Word is True, then you will practice what He says and you will grow in Him!

Because your faith has made you alive in Christ!

II. Faith is Not Speculation, But Belief in God
Abel believed in the atonement of God
(i.e. promised sacrifice for sin)

(Hebrews 11:4)

By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.

(Genesis 4: 1 – 10)

1 Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, "With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man."

2 Later she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil.

3 In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD.

4 But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering,

5 but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

6 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast?"

7 If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it."

8 Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

9 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" "I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's keeper?"

10 The LORD said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground.

Abel believed in the "substance" or "evidence" not yet seen (i.e. Jesus the Lamb of God)

This is the Way of Faith!

Enoch walked with God, though while on earth for 300 years and then lived with Him!

(Hebrews 11: 5 – 6)

5 By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God.

6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

(Genesis 5: 21 – 24)

21 When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah.

22 And after he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters.

23 Altogether, Enoch lived 365 years.

24 Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.

Noah was a bold witness of Faith in God!

(Hebrews 11: 7)

By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

(Genesis 6: 5 – 8)

5 The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.

6 The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain.

7 So the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth--men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air--for I am grieved that I have made them."

8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

Conclusion:

We Are Called To:
"Follow the Way"

(John 14:6)

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

We Are Called To:
Walk in Faith

(II Corinthians 5: 6 – 7)

6 Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord.

7 We live by faith, not by sight.

Be A Witness For God

(Matthew 24:14)

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Christians!
Like Our Ancestors in the Faith
Persevere to be Veterans of Faith
in God!