

Living by Faith; Romans 1:16-17

- I. Living
 - A. What is your purpose for living (in life)?
 1. Are we living day by day, just seeing what happens and reacting to whatever the world gives us?
 2. Do we have a vision, goals we wish to achieve?
 3. Is our purpose based in our faith?
 - B. Romans 1:16–17 (ESV) ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”
 - C. “I care not today what the morrow may bring, if shadow or sunshine or rain”
- II. Faith
 - A. “The Lord I know ruleth o’er everything, and all of my worry is vain”
 - B. Hebrews 10:38–11:1 (ESV); 38 but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.” 39 But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls. 1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
 1. Assurance — marvelous certainty, realization
 - a. The marvelous certainty of our hope
 - b. Our hope is in the resurrection of Jesus
 2. Conviction — the act of presenting evidence for the truth, proof
 - a. The proof of things not seen
 - b. Again, the resurrection
 - C. Faith has been the cornerstone of God’s promise since the beginning
- III. The People of Old
 - A. “Tho tempests may blow, and the storm clouds arise, obscuring the brightness of life. I’m never alarmed at the overcast skies; the Master looks on at the strife”
 - B. Hebrews 11:2 (ESV); For by it the people of old received their commendation.
 - C. Sacrifices and offerings are necessary, but not the cornerstone of God’s promises
 - D. Abel
 1. Genesis 4:3–5 (ESV); 3 In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, 4 and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, 5 but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.
 2. This isn’t some random sacrifice that Cain just decided to bring to God
 3. Even before the Law of Moses God required sacrifices — and that they be the best, the ‘firstfruits’
 4. Hebrews 11:4 (ESV); By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.
 - E. Abraham

1. In Genesis 12:1-3 is the first time we read of God's call to Abram
 - a. He has already left Ur and is living in Haran
 - b. His father has died
 - c. God calls him (a second time)
 2. Acts 7:2-3 (ESV); 2 And Stephen said: "Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, 3 and said to him, 'Go out from your land and from your kindred and go into the land that I will show you.'
 3. So, God called Abraham out of Ur — and he left!
 4. Think how difficult that must have been
 5. Acts 7:4-6 (ESV); 4 Then he went out from the land of the Chaldeans and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living. 5 Yet he gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot's length, but promised to give it to him as a possession and to his offspring after him, though he had no child. 6 And God spoke to this effect—that his offspring would be sojourners in a land belonging to others, who would enslave them and afflict them four hundred years.
 6. God told Abraham to 'leave your home and become homeless' — and he did!
 7. Hebrews 11:8-10 (ESV); 8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. 10 For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.
 8. Abram left his home — by faith!
- F. Noah
1. Genesis 6:13-14 (ESV); 13 And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth. 14 Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch.
 2. Many different scholars have given different amounts of time that it took to build the ark
 - a. Noah was 500 when he is first mentioned (Genesis 5:32) and 600 when he enters the ark (Genesis 7:6)
 - b. Genesis 6:3 (ESV); Then the Lord said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years."
 - c. One person even took the age of Noah's sons and came up with 55-75 years
 - d. So, we can safely say that it took anywhere from 55-120 years
 3. Some scholars say (and I agree) that it had never rained
 4. Genesis 2:5-6 (ESV); 5 When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, 6 and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground—

5. Hebrews 11:7 (ESV); By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.
 - a. Could you imagine building something that no one had ever seen (an ark) — for something that no one had ever seen (rain) — for 55-120 years?!
 - b. Imagine what the local population was thinking — remember, their thoughts were only evil continually (Genesis 6:5)
6. But Noah built the ark — by faith!
- G. Faith has always been — and always will be — the bedrock of His promise
- IV. Pleasing God
 - A. “Our Lord will return to this earth some sweet day, our troubles will then all be o’er”
 - B. Hebrews 11:6 (ESV); And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.
 - C. Believe — to consider something to be true (real) and therefore worthy of one’s trust, to entrust oneself to an entity in complete confidence ¹
 1. It is translated; faith, entrust, and believe
 2. This word has a whole lot more meaning than just accepting something is true (Merriam Webster’s)
 3. We must ‘trust in complete confidence,’ ‘have faith,’ that God exists and rewards those who seek him
 4. We do God and His Son, Jesus, a huge disservice by accepting Merriam Webster’s definition and not God’s — especially since it is the bedrock of God’s promise to us
 5. Faith is completed by action
 6. James 2:22–23 (ESV); 22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; 23 and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God.
 - D. These ‘people of old’ lived by faith
 - E. Their actions were determined by their faith — their actions were part of their faith
- V. Living by Faith
 - A. God calls us to live by faith
 - B. Hebrews 10:35–39 (ESV); 35 Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. 37 For, “Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; 38 but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.” 39 But we are not of those

¹ 1 William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 816.

who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

- C. "Living by faith in Jesus alone, trusting confiding in His great love"
- D. What are you doing through your faith?
- E. Have you accepted Merriam Webster's definition of faith?
- F. Have you accepted God's definition of faith?