

TITLE AND NUMBER: 249 Faith is the answer



REFERENCE AND KEY VERSES: Hebrews 11: 1, 4-6

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead. 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. 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.

LOOKING FURTHER: Hebrews 11:2-3; Psalm 147:1-11; James 4:7-10

What does the Bible passage tell us?

In the early 1960s, there was a well-known advertisement for a product that 'fortifies the over-forties.' It was implied that this product would improve health and quality of life for everyone over a certain age.

Nowadays, we might still hear claims that a potion will cure any illness, that a new glue will stick absolutely any material or that an amazing new product will improve everyone's life. Most of us have enough life experience to know that those claims are rarely, if ever, true.

Today's passage makes some dramatic promises for the effects of faith on our lives. These claims are absolutely true. Like the people mentioned in the reading, if we have faith, we can please God; we can be assured He will see us as righteous - that is, people with whom He is pleased. Ultimately, while we are unlikely to be spared from dying as Enoch was, we can know that death is not the end, but simply the doorway to eternal life with Christ.

How can this happen? As verse 6 explains, it is by having faith; not just believing in our heads that God exists, but by coming to Him, surrendering our ordinary lives with all our shortcomings and seeking to walk with Him for the rest of our lives on earth. As Psalm 147:11 says, 'The Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their trust in his unfailing love.'

Reflection

- Do you sometimes worry that God may not be pleased with you? Meditate on Psalm 147:11 and ask God to reassure you that He delights in you.
- Do you feel as if God is just out of your reach? Read James 4:7-10 and see what God's response is when you try to draw closer to Him.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



FAITH

Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for?
It's okay to talk to God about this.

