

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for October 16, 2016

Old Testament Examples of Saving Faith
Hebrews 11:1-7

After confidently stating that he believed that his readers had faith, the author then using Old Testament examples challenged his readers to continue to walk by faith (Hebrews 11:1-40).

Before this author began to introduce various Old Testament examples of faith to his readers, he first of all presented to them a working definition of biblical faith (Hebrews 11:1-3).

A working definition of biblical faith is not a complete definition but rather a definition that is good enough to make the point that is needed.

When the author defined biblical faith as he did in Hebrews 11:1, he was making the point that the only way that anyone can entrust themselves to God and His word is through faith.

Faith, when combined with a promise from God, provides those who have faith “the assurance” (HYPOSTASIS) that is what is being hoped for, in respect to what has been promised, is “real” or “substantive.”

Faith when combined with God’s promises also provides those who have faith “the conviction” (ELENCHOS) or in other words “the proof” for the existence of what is as yet unseen but promised.

The author chose to highlight certain Old Testament examples of faith that preceded the flood (Hebrews 10:4-7).

The first Old Testament example of faith that preceded the flood that the author chose to highlight was Abel (Hebrews 10:4; cf. Genesis 4:1-15).

The second Old Testament example of faith that preceded the flood that the author chose to highlight was Enoch (Hebrews 11:5-6; cf. Genesis 5:21-24).

The third Old Testament example of faith that preceded the flood that the author chose to highlight was Noah (Hebrews 11:7; cf. Genesis 5:21-24).

May God grant us faith to continually trust Him and His word, knowing that in doing that He will reward us with spiritual blessings both in this life and the life to come.