

An Action-Packed Faith

The New Testament has a lot to say about faith. Many of us may think that faith is simply believing and accepting the existence of God and that Jesus Christ is His Son. But a close study of the Scriptures will reveal that faith is much, much more. The 2nd chapter of James spends quite a bit of time explaining that faith must be coupled with good works, else, it is dead and useless. (*James 2:14-26*) We may want to argue that we can't "work" our way to heaven and that's absolutely true. (*Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 3:4-5*) However, when considering the message of the New Testament as a whole, we learn that we must possess a faith of action in order to be pleasing to the Lord. Let's consider the "Heroes of Faith" listed in Hebrews Chapter 11:

- By faith, Abel "*offered*" (v. 4)
- By faith, Enoch "*pleased*" God (v. 5)
- By faith, Noah "*moved*" and "*prepared*" an ark (v. 7)
- By faith, Abraham "*obeyed*" (v. 8)
- By faith, Sarah "*conceived*" a son (v. 11)
- By faith, Abraham "*offered*" up Isaac (v. 17)
- By faith, Isaac "*blessed*" his sons (v. 20)
- By faith, Jacob "*worshipped*" leaning on his staff (v. 21)
- By faith, Moses "*suffered*" affliction (v. 24-25)

The Old Testament heroes did not live to see the promise of Jesus Christ come to pass, but now we can look to the "author and finisher of our faith" (*Hebrews 12:1-2*) and access the mercy, love, and saving grace of God through an action-packed faith. (*Ephesians 2:4-5*)

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