

## THE HALL OF FAITH - Part II

**Text: Hebrews 11:7-10**

**Key Word: Faith**

**Key Thought: What Kinds of Faith Does God Want Us to Have?**

In my last message we began a 4 -part sermon on the Hall of Faith. We saw that God has given to us the opportunity to mature in a **Creative Faith** as well as a **Commended Faith**. This week I want to discuss two more levels of faith that Hebrews chapter 11 addresses. Those who reached these levels were included in God's Hall of Faith.

**\*\*\*** Whether you realize it or not, Cornwall has a Hall of Fame situated in the Civic Center. Located on one of the walls is a picture of my grandfather, Hector Montsion. He was recognized as one of Cornwall's outstanding sports heroes.

He was known for his accomplishments in boxing. He fought more than 200 amateur boxing matches in both Canada and the United States. On two occasions he fought the middleweight champion, Ronnie Headlay and lost on split decisions. He fought against such men as To Mason, Sammy Mandell, Billy Patrol, Frenchie Belanger and "Big Fists" Rupert.

During his later career, he turned down an offer by Jonny Ponsale, well-known heavyweight fighter in France to travel and fight in Europe. Hector declined the offer. He was inducted into the Cornwall Hall of Fame in 1968 (the year after the Hall was established). He died at the Cornwall General Hospital on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1973 at the age of 67.

There are many Halls of Fame located throughout the world that list the achievements of sports figures as well as those who have reached exceptional levels in their field of expertise. God has a greater Hall which I have given the title the HALL OF FAITH.

Lets look again at those who are included in it and what is special about their faith. These are veterans of the Word of God who have achieved levels that we think are impossible for us to ever gain. **Perhaps we need to think again and set new levels of faith in order to reach our maximum potential for God.** These common men and women can inspire us to have a . . .

**I. CONCERNED FAITH (Hebrews 11:7)**

**II. CALLED FAITH (Hebrews 11:8-10)**

## I. CONCERNED FAITH (Hebrews 11:7)

The first figure who comes to the forefront is a man by the name of “**Noah.**” His name means “**comfort.**” It comes from a root word meaning “**quiet and restful.**” Like the ark that he eventually entered, he brought comfort to his family as they rested upon a mountain top while the raging waters descended around him.

*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.”*

*Hebrews 11:7*

I want us to get a vivid picture in our minds of what this Scripture is saying. When we compare the record found in the Book of Genesis, we find that God became disgusted with mankind. Wickedness and violence were engulfing the creation He had made. God reached a point of grief that He decided to destroy mankind by a deluge of water.

In the midst of this wicked world was found one man who stood out as a light in a darkened world.

*“But Noah found favor (grace - KJV) in the eyes of the LORD.*

*9. This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God.”*

*Genesis 6:8,9*

It was to this man that God spoke. No one else had the ears to hear what God wanted to say.

*“So God spoke to Noah, ‘I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth.’”*

*Genesis 6:13*

Noah was told to do something that would take a **Concerned Faith** to act upon. The divine communication said that a deluge would sweep over the entire earth. Up to this time there had not even been the appearance of rain. God had used a mist to water the earth. We have no record of even a boat being built up to this time and now God was giving instructions to build an ark that would contain every living creature known to man. **His concern to fully obey the known will of God caused him to follow the instructions given to the letter.**

## I. CONCERNED FAITH (Hebrews 11:7) (Contd.)

At Noah's 500<sup>th</sup> birthday (a number of grace) he began to build the ark as God told him. During the next 100 years this man of Concerned Faith not only built an ark but he also preached a message of righteousness to the mocking crowd of people (II Peter 2:5). He was concerned not just for his own welfare and that of his family, but also to a world that mocked what he believed. Are we exercising this kind of faith?

He must have looked like a fool erecting such a massive ark while living so far inland. He was moved by a "*holy fear*" (which means "*to act cautiously, circumspectly, reverently, standing in awe*"). When Noah turned 600 years old (the number of man) God sent the flood as He had promised. His life stood as a testimony against an unbelieving world. His faith would not allow him to give up. We have recently entered a time period that is very similar to that of Noah's day. **Read together the next verses from Matthew 24:37 - 25:13**

\*\* A preacher was emphasizing that there will come a time when there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth for those who refuse to accept God's message of grace. One older lady looked up perfectly smug. As she smiled the preacher saw into her reasoning. "*For those without them*" he added hastily, "*teeth will be provided!*" \*\*

Douglas Mantz  
"*Let There be Laughter*"  
p. 10

We are living in the closing days of time. People are finding so many ways to rebel against the Word of God. Many "*preachers of righteousness*" will soon find the door they've left open, shut by God Himself (Genesis 7:16; Matthew 25:10). At that time those who once had an opportunity to be saved will be turned away to perish as God pours out His wrath upon a sinful and disobedient people.

**Doesn't it amaze you to realize that Noah's preaching of 100 years (a righteous preacher) had no effect upon the people?** They refused to accept his message. They mocked him and ridiculed him for his faith. While in contrast, Peter, who had denied his Lord a few days earlier preached just one message and 3,000 people were saved. No wonder Noah had a Concerned Faith. I'm sure Peter and Noah understood that God would keep to His Word.

*"If he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others;"*

*II Peter 2:5*

## II. CALLED FAITH (Hebrews 11:8-10)

Years passed by after the flood and mankind multiplied again and spread out over God's creation. At God's perfect timing, a man by the name of Abram is spoken to while he was living in the Ur of the Chaldees. All his kinfolk lived in this idolatrous land. When his father, Terah, died, Abram left his father's land and journeyed into the land of Canaan. In fact, Abram didn't even know where he was going. He didn't have the benefit of a map or someone who had traveled that way before. He simply left and was led by a **Called Faith**.

*"By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going."*

Hebrews 11:8

There is a faith that is developed in some people that causes them to become **uprooted** and **replanted** in a place of God's choosing. These people strangely respond to what they believe God's will is for their lives. They often leave family, friends and even permanent jobs to follow a voice that is speaking to their hearts. It is considered as foolishness to the unyielding heart. There was no hesitancy on Abram's part. The literal translation is **"While he was being called . . . obeyed."** **A Called Faith** does not question the **ONE** who leads. Truly Abram walked by faith and not by sight.

The **promise** was followed by a time of **patience** before he gained his **possession**. The Bible makes it clear that Abraham's faith could see beyond the **present** into the reality of God's plan.

*For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God."*

Hebrews 11:10

God has uprooted individuals and families in order to bring about a blessing to others. Those who have been called by God can expect the Lord to guide their starts as well as their stops. This man of faith went to a foreign land and lived in tents so he could quickly respond to the next calling of God - if it ever came. There is no record of Abraham ever building a permanent dwelling (or house). He knew by faith that God was preparing an eternal home for him in heaven. His **son and grandson** did the same because of their covenant based on faith.

*"By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise."*

Hebrews 11:9

## II. CALLED FAITH (Hebrews 11:8-10) (Contd.)

There are many more names included in God's Hall of Faith since the Scriptures were completed. These men and women have sacrificed their lives for the sake of the Gospel.

**1. William Wilberforce (1759-1833)** was known for his active campaign against the slave trade of Africans to America and the West Indies.

**2. William Carey (1761-1834)** was known as the father of the modern missionary movement. He went to Bengal on the northeaster tip of India and had a powerful impact on others. He has challenged thousands of men and women by his motto: *"Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God."*

**3. Thomas Chalmers (1780-1847)** was the central figure in the Scottish Church in the early nineteenth century.

**4. David Livingstone (1813-1873)** a Scottish doctor served under the London Missionary Society starting in South Africa, under the leadership of Robert Moffat. He walked more and recorded better than most of his contemporaries. His body was returned to Westminster Abbey where he was buried after he had worked so valiantly to *"drain the open sore of Africa"* - the Arab slave trade.

**5. Charles H. Spurgeon (1834-92)** became known as the *"prince of preachers."* He saw more than 900 men trained as he pastored at the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London, which seated 6,000. He was the most popular preacher of his day and age.

**6. Dwight L. Moody (1837-99)** was the most noted evangelist of his age. He combined with Ira Sankey to spread out from Chicago to Brooklyn and even to Great Britain.

**7. William Booth (1829-1912)** founded the Salvation Army from its humble beginning in 1865 in a tent in Whitechapel, England. The early church leaders thought it was trick of the devil in an attempt to make Christianity look ridiculous.

**8. Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965)** achieved greatness as a theologian, philosopher musician and missionary. In 1953 he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his repeated warnings against the atomic bomb. He combined his medical work and missions work in his 35 years devotion at Lambarene in the Cameroons.

**9. Cameron Townsend (1896-1982)** founder of the Wycliffe Bible Translators in 1934 who inspired the 1000's of translators who continue to devote their lives today.

**10. Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945)** the active anti-Hitler spokesman refused to retreat from the harsh realities of his day and challenged Christians to reject complacent, undisciplined faith and life.

**11. C. S. Lewis (1898-1963)** was the most popular defender of orthodox Christianity in the English-speaking world in the mid-twentieth century.

**12. Alexander Solzhenitsyn (1918-2008)** was awarded the Nobel Peace prize in 1970 but was forbidden by the USSR to accept it at that time. He criticized both the extremes of socialism in the East and democracy in the West.

**13. Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968)** the black civil right leader was a co-pastor at the famous Ebenezer Church in Atlanta, Georgia. At age 39, in 1968 he became another victim of hatred as he was gunned down by an assassin's bullet.

**14. Billy Graham (1918- 2018)** who has led probably more people to the Lord than any other evangelist since establishing BGEA in 1950.

All of these and hundreds of thousands of others were **called to a specific people with a specific work to do.** Perhaps God is calling you to grow in your faith at this vital time of your life. Are you open to receive a . . .

**I. CONCERNED FAITH (Hebrews 11:7)**

**II. CALLED FAITH (Hebrews 11:8-10)**

C:\My Documents\WPWin(X9)\Sermons.2018\Faith/Heb 11\_7.10wpd

Date: Oct 21/18

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: Change my Heart O God - C

**THE HALL OF FAITH - Part II**  
**Text: Hebrews 11:7-10**

**Key Word:** Faith

**Key Thought:** What Kinds of Faith Does God Want Us to Have?

**Perhaps we need to think again and set new levels of faith in order to reach our maximum potential for God.** These common men and women can inspire us to have a . . .

**I. CONCERNED FAITH (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.”*

*Hebrews 11:7*

*Genesis 6:8,9; Genesis 6:13; II Peter 2:5; Matthew 24:37 - 25:13; Genesis 7:16; Matthew 25:10; II Peter 2:5*

**II. CALLED FAITH (Hebrews 11:8-10)**

*“By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.”*

*Hebrews 11:8*

*Hebrews 11:10; Hebrews 11:9*

- 1. William Wilberforce (1759-1833)**
- 2. William Carey (1761-1834)**
- 3. Thomas Chalmers (1780-1847)**
- 4. David Livingstone (1813-1873)**
- 5. Charles H. Spurgeon (1834-92)**
- 6. Dwight L. Moody (1837-99)**
- 7. William Booth (1829-1912)**
- 8. Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965)**
- 9. Cameron Townsend (1896-1982)**
- 10. Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945)**
- 11. C. S. Lewis (1898-1963)**
- 12. Alexander Solzhenitsyn (1918-2008)**
- 13. Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968)**
- 14. Billy Graham (1918- 2018)**