

becoming



Sermon Notes


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FAITH: NOAH

³His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. ⁵For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. ⁸For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. ¹⁰Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. ¹¹For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:3–11

LAST WEEK

- Who are you becoming?
- Who we are becoming is received from God, built with the Holy Spirit, and lived out by us.
- Next 8 weeks: Virtues from 2 Peter 1:5–7

We become who God wants us to become when we have faith, grow in faith, and live out faith.

WHAT IS FAITH?

⁵For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue,
2 Peter 1:5a

- Who we are becoming begins with Faith

Trusting God is the root from which all other virtues spring. Those who rely on God and his promises begin to live a new way.

Thomas Schreiner, 1, 2 Peter, Jude, 299

¹³So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three;

1 Corinthians 13:13

They are called theological virtues because their object is God, they assist us in seeking and finding God, and they come to us by God's grace alone.

Karen Swallow Prior, *On Reading Well*, 107

What is faith?

- Belief/Cognitive
- Trust/Relational
- Fidelity/Obedience

THE EXAMPLE OF NOAH'S FAITH

Genesis 6:5–9:29

- Noah's Story
- The Subject of Faith

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.

Hebrews 11:7

- Noah knew something of God and his character
 - Faith has to begin somewhere
- Noah had a relationship with God
- Noah trusted and obeyed God

Noah's venture to build his vessel upon dry land while awaiting the impending floodwaters is exemplary of a person trusting in what cannot be seen or proven. As is the case for many of the saints, God is calling upon Noah to accomplish a task that has no precedent, for an experience that had no counterpart.

K. A. Mathews, *Genesis 1-11:26*, 369–370

- True faith always results in true obedience
- The Object of Faith

The narrator leaves Noah a 'flat' character. The only personality he has is found in the characteristics attributed to him by God. The text could not be clearer that

Noah is a bit player and that the star of the account is God. Whatever we might learn from Noah is totally eclipsed by what we learn about God.

John H. Walton, *Genesis*, 332

- Our faith is only as strong as what we place our faith in
- Our faith is strengthened by God's faithfulness

THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS' FAITH

³⁶Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray." ³⁷And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." ³⁹And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."

Matthew 26:36–39

- Jesus knew God
- Jesus trusted God
- Jesus obeyed God
- Jesus not only modeled faith; he enables faith

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1–2

- Because of Jesus, we not only know what true faith looks like; we know where true faith is found.

QUESTIONS FOR PRAYERFUL REFLECTION THIS WEEK?

- What do you know about God?
- What is one way you can grow in your knowledge of who God is?

- How does your life currently demonstrate that you trust God?
- In what ways currently do you need to grow in your faithfulness toward God?

Who are you becoming? Are you becoming faithful?