

Believing the Unseen Truth

Hebrews 11:1–7

We gather in church and offer worship every Sunday through faith in believing Jesus, God's only Son, to remember Christ our Saviour. In this morning's passage, the word faith (pistis) is repeated no fewer than ten times. That alone shows how vital these words are. The author teaches that faith is to "confirm unseen realities" and to believe in them. This stands in complete contrast to the worldly perspective that places weight only on what can be seen. Those who are filled with the Holy Spirit teach us the very essence of faith, even in our modern age of advanced science and technology.

Consider Abel and Cain in Genesis (4:4). Abel, the younger brother, had deeper faith than his elder brother Cain, he brought an offering that pleased God—the firstborn of his flock, the fat portions. Although Abel was honoured by God, this incurred Cain's resentment and was murdered, the cry of Abel's blood reached God. In other words, he was welcomed into heaven. Enoch "walked with God" and lived 365 years before God took him (Genesis 5:21–24); he too was received into heaven. What of Noah, who built the ark? As a man of

faith who “walked with God”, he and his family escaped the disaster and survived the flood (chapters 6–7). The same is true of Abraham, who came after them. What all these predecessors share is this: they lived their lives convinced of unseen realities, were received into heaven, and led blessed lives.

The creation of the world began with God’s word, “Let there be light.” That light was not something visible beforehand. Faith is believing in unseen realities, and we are taught to learn from the people of old (such as Abel). We ourselves did not see Christ’s death on the cross or His resurrection. Nor have we seen heaven. Yet God prepares for us a “heavenly homeland” through our faith (11:16).