

GUARDIANS OF FAITH: Part II

TEXT: [HEBREWS 11](#)

SUBJECT: **The Righteous Shall Live By Faith**

INTRODUCTION: When God says something one time in the Bible, we as believers in Jesus should take heed to it. But what about when God repeats Himself and says something twice or even three times in the Bible? Should we not think that is pretty important stuff and take it seriously? Well, what if God says something 4 times in the Bible? There is only one passage of scripture that I can think of that God has stated 4 times in the Bible, and it is found in [Habakkuk 2:4](#), [Romans 1:17](#), [Galatians 3:11](#), and [Hebrews 10:38](#). That sentence or command is: “THE RIGHTEOUS MAN/ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.”

Faith has always been God’s plan through which man would be saved. However, by the time Jesus arrived on the scene, Judaism had become a legalist system of laws and regulations and works that no man could keep, thus Judaism was a dead or dying religion even before God officially declared it dead at the death of Jesus. With this being true, then we need to take a look at the word Faith.

I. What is Faith? [Hebrews 11:1](#)

- A. Faith is and always has been God’s Divine plan for man’s salvation.
- B. Faith is the Assurance of Things Hoped For.
 - 1. Faith is living in a hope that is so real that it gives complete and absolute assurance.

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2. The promises given to OT saints were so real to them, because they believed God, that they based their whole lives on them. (2 basic promises; a Messiah and a home.)
3. Simply stated: They took God at His word and based their whole lives on that basis.
4. Man's natural response is to trust his physical senses; that is, to put his faith in the things he can see, hear, taste, and feel. But the man of God puts his trust in something more durable and dependable than anything he will ever experience with his senses; and that something is God. Man's senses may lie, but God cannot lie.

C. Faith is the Conviction of Things Not Seen.

1. The person of faith lives his belief. His life is committed to what his mind and his spirit are convinced is true. Noah is a prime example of this. For 120 years Noah preached in faith, hoped in faith, and built in faith.
2. Today we accept many things by faith. When is the last time we flew on an airplane? Airplanes in and of themselves should not be able to fly, as they are big and bulky and extremely heavy. Yet they fly. Then there is the issue of sitting in the seat of a plane while someone we don't even know who he or she is, yet we trust that they can fly this monstrosity, and will get us where we want to go safely. This is called natural faith and it is created in us. Spiritual faith operates in that same realm of capacity. That is, it willingly accepts and acts on many things it does

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not understand. Natural trust comes by natural birth and Spiritual trust comes from God. God gives us the faith necessary for salvation, and consequently the faith necessary for life.

3. While God gives us the faith for life, it is necessary for us to build it.

II. The obvious theme of [Hebrews 11](#) is faith, and Abel is the first person in a long line of faithful persons who can teach us about the life of faith.

A. Abel presented to God an acceptable sacrifice; illustrating his faith in God.

B. Abel's life and death has 3 things to say to us today:

1. Man comes to God by Faith, not works
2. Man must accept and obey God's revelation above his own reason and self-will.
3. Sin is severely punished.

CONCLUSION: A guardian is a person who has been appointed by a person of authority to oversee and protect another person or an object. God has entrusted His method of salvation to all who come to him by faith, for without faith it is impossible to please God. It is our responsibility as believers to share our faith with others so that they have an opportunity to become believers in Jesus as well. This is the Faith Story, and after all the centuries of time since Adam's fall, the Story of Salvation by faith continues still today.