

# Obedient Faith

(Hebrews 11:7)

Yearly Theme: *“Love Does...”*

Series Title: *Substance of Faith*

December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019

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## Something to think about:

When a skyscraper is built, a lot of work, time, and effort is put into the foundation before any building begins on the floors or walls. The builders want to make sure it will keep standing.

With this in mind, for the believer in Christ, *obedience* to God is the best *foundation* to lay when building our lives.

As we consider the ongoing series for this month (“Love Never Loses Faith”), we come to an aspect of faith that blossoms into righteousness (or what we might call “right living”).

Let’s take a look...

## *Hebrews 11:1-40 (NLT)*

***<sup>7</sup> It was by faith that Noah built a large boat to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about things that had never happened before. By his faith Noah condemned the rest of the world, and he received the righteousness that comes by faith.***

“Peter T. Forsythe was right when he said, ‘The first duty of every soul is to find not its freedom but its Master.’”<sup>1</sup>

Noah was a man of obedient faith. Even when the whole world was against him, he took God at his word and did what God had asked of him to do.

The key point this morning is this...

**Key Point:** *“Righteousness is a result of obedient faith and trust in God.”*

How did this play out in Noah’s life? Let’s take a look...

## **1. Noah’s faith led him to obedience to God’s word.**

*Some versions of Scripture note that Noah was moved by “reverent fear” of God, and thus, he obeyed God’s command to build an ark of safety even though the things that God warned him of had never happened before. This type of reverent fear, or holy “awe,” led Noah to take God at his word.*

## **2. Noah’s faith condemned the rest of the world.**

*How is this possible? Did Noah go around and point a finger at his accusers and the rest of society with a voice of condemnation and scorn? Not at all! Noah’s faith in God contrasted with the wickedness of mankind was in and of itself a form of condemnation because Noah’s faith in God exposed more fully the wickedness of the world.*

## **3. Noah received righteousness that only comes by faith in God.**

*The righteousness that Noah acquired came through his unwavering commitment to God in the face of intense pressure, persecution, and mockery from the world.*

## Something to take home:

Is our faith *in* God shown through our obedience *to* God? There cannot be faith *in* God without obedience *to* God. For to merely have faith in words only makes a mockery of true righteous behavior. This is why many within the world look at Christians through a lens of scrutiny. Do we say what we mean and mean what we say, or are our words meaningless and untrustworthy?

Noah was a man of righteousness *because* of his faith in God and his obedience to God’s word. Can we say the same?

It’s so vitally important to remember...

**Key Point:** *“Righteousness is a result of obedient faith and trust in God.”*

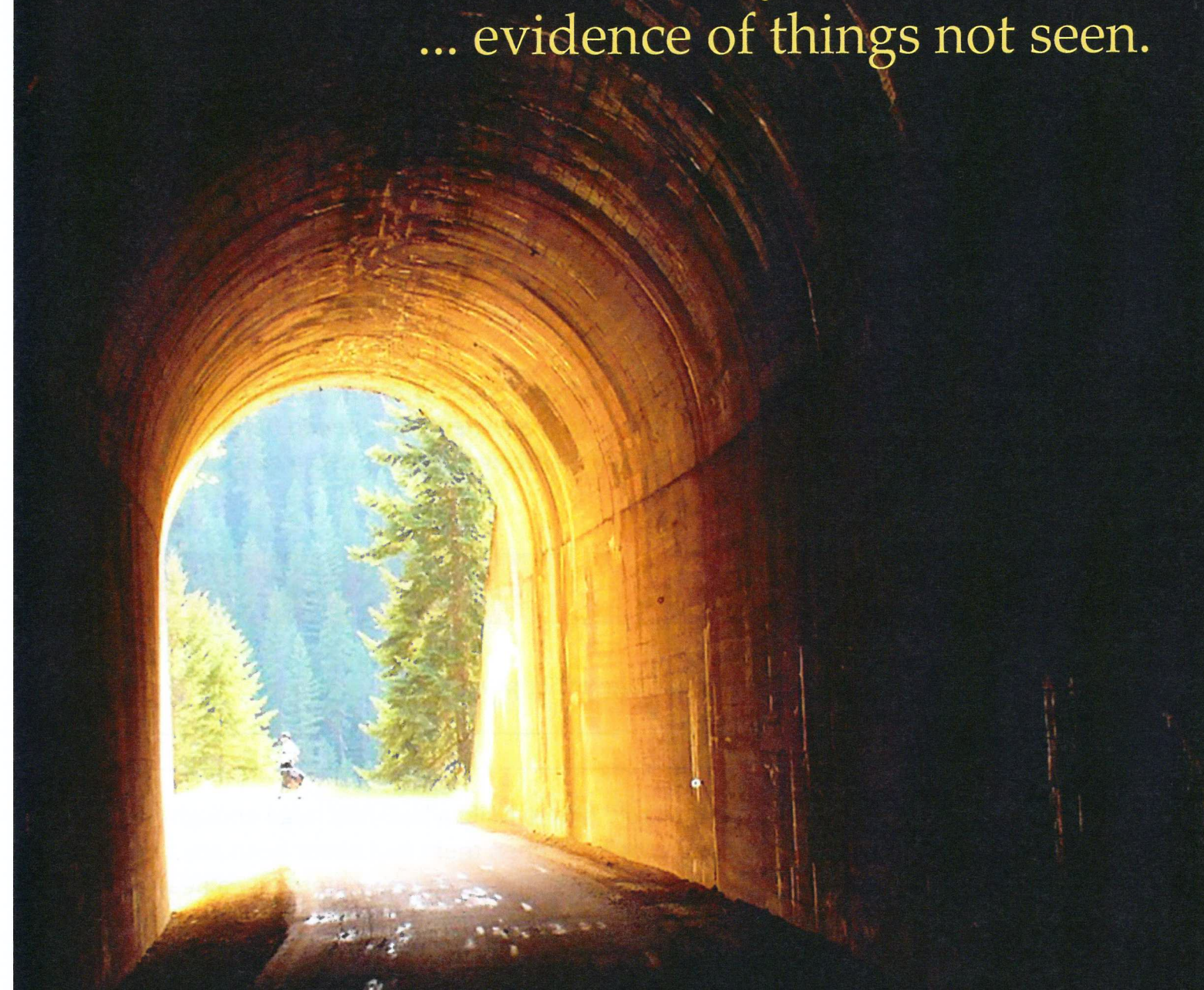
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<sup>1</sup> Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Integrity Crisis*, (Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1991), 22.



This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 20 horizontal blue or grey lines spaced evenly apart, typical of notebook paper. The lines extend across the entire width of the page, leaving small margins at the top and bottom. There are no vertical lines, text, or other markings on the page.

... evidence of things not seen.



(HEBREWS 11)



# Obedient Faith

(Hebrews 11:7)

Series Title: “*Substance of Faith*”

## KICK STARTERS:

- ⇒ Define “obedience”?
- ⇒ Describe a time in childhood when you were disobedient. What happened?

**SCRIPTURE:** (Before studying this material, consider listening to the corresponding message online at: <http://www.northmaincog.org/media/sermon-media>)

Hebrews 11:1-40 (NLT)

*<sup>7</sup> It was by faith that Noah built a large boat to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about things that had never happened before. By his faith Noah condemned the rest of the world, and he received the righteousness that comes by faith.*

## GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. In a couple sentences, describe this passage of Scripture:  

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2. Noah’s faith was definitely a leap. God told him to build a boat/ark large enough for pairs of animals great and small from across the land when there had never been any rainfall in human history up to that point. Up till that time, the earth was watered by a heavy mist that came up from the earth much like dew that comes on the ground through the night and into the morning. What would you do if you were Noah? Would you build an ark when you had never see so much as a drop of rain?  

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3. Faith is not faith without obedience. It was by faith that Noah was obedient to do what God asked of Him. How does obedience to God lead us into deeper faith?  

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4. The writer of Hebrews explains that Noah’s faith “condemned” the rest of the world. What does he mean by this?  

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5. When a person does the right thing when everyone else is doing the wrong thing, the sheer contrast between right and wrong stands as condemnation even without pointing a finger. How does a persons commitment and obedience to God stand in stark contrast to the rest of the world?  

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6. Noah’s faith in God contrasted with the wickedness of mankind was in and of itself a form of condemnation because Noah’s faith in God exposed more fully the wickedness of the world. Does the faith you live out stand in contrast to the rest of the world around you? Explain...  

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6. Verse 7 describes how Noah received “righteousness” that comes by faith. First off, “righteousness” rightly defined is being “morally upright”? With this understanding, how does righteousness come by faith?  

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7. Read James 2:14-26. Much like Noah’s experience of faith in action, James says that faith without works is dead. Specifically, in verse 26 (New Living Testament), James writes, “Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works.” So faith is to works, just like breath is to the body; one cannot exist without the other. Why is this the case?  

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## SELF-EVALUATION/APPLICATION:

- ⇒ **IS OUR FAITH** *in* God shown through our obedience *to* God? There cannot be faith in God without obedience to God. For to merely have faith in words only makes a mockery of true righteous behavior. This is why many within the world look at Christians through a lens of scrutiny. Do we say what we mean and mean what we say, or are our words meaningless and untrustworthy?
- ⇒ **NOAH WAS** a man of righteousness *because* of his faith in God and his obedience to God’s word. Can we say the same?
- ⇒ **MEMORY VERSES:** *Hebrews 11:7 and James 2:26.*