

## Touching Heaven – Touching Earth

Tuesday morning bible study on prayer with Cindy Smith

March 18

Reread James 5:13-18. Our reference scripture.

Let's take a look at two fathers of faith, Noah and Abraham, by reading from Heb 11:4-18. So Abel achieved righteousness of faith by pleasing God with his sacrifice (Gen 4:4). Enoch also had relationship with the Lord (Gen 5:21-24) which was pleasing to God-so pleasing that he swooped him to be with him. Let's look at Gen 6:13-22 to see about Noah and start with verse 5-In verse 8 we find that faith brings favor with God! Anyone here want God to favor them? The Hebrew word for favor is "chen"-equivalent to the Greek word for favor which is "charis". Another translation for the word "charis" is grace. "For it is by grace that you are saved by faith" as it says in Eph 2 7-8. Note it says in verse 9 that Noah was a righteous man-does it not say something about righteous prayers of the saints in our key verse from James 5? Because he was a faith-filled man-he was given revelation-first a vision of salvation with the ark and secondly an exact pattern for that salvation in the construction of a boat. It was a big boat-they are finding remains on Mt. Ararat in Turkey-the Japanese explorers thought that they were in an ice tunnel and they discovered the walls were of petrified wood coated with layers of ice. And boy, was his faith to be sorely tested-by all kinds of mockers and scoffers.over a 120 year period. Read through Gen 9:18. Science verifies our scriptures, but faith is what validates them.

Let's look at Matt 24:36-42 "No one knows the day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it is in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and given in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until; the flood came and took them all away. This is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come."

Beginning with Abraham in Hebrews 11:8-19. Abraham was a true father of our faith and from him came a family of faith as numerous as the stars in the sky. Reading from Gen 12:1-10, then onto Gen 15 highlighting verse 5-6 through verse 16. Vs 5-6 "He took him outside and said, 'look up at the stars-if indeed you can count them' Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." He received a covenant of land and an inheritance of his offspring when he had neither. That is why we call him a father of faith. Gen 17:1-27. God initiated the covenant which was a covenant of faith with man between God and God and God. Then Abraham and every male born to them or their household was to be circumcised as a sign of that covenant. Circumcision is often called by rabbis "the seal of circumcision." They were marked.

Eph 1:13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession-to the praise of His glory." In 2 Tim 2:19 "the firm foundation stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows them that are His." So Abraham gave up his homeland, his identity and was then by covenant given a new land, the land gave up his homeland, his identity and was then by covenant given a new land, the land of Canaan, and a new identity-marked by God with an inheritance and it was all done by faith. He received a new name as a part of the identity exchange.- from Abram to Abraham, and Sarai to Sarah. It was also Abraham who encountered Jehovah-Jireh, our provider as he in faith offered his son, Isaac, up to the Lord on Mt. Moriah, the present site of the Temple Mount in Israel. Abraham was referred to as a friend of God in Isa 41:8 and James 2:23.

In Hebrews, it says Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau by faith. Jacob blessed each of Joseph's sons, by faith. Then there was Moses-READ Hebrews 11:22—29. Vs 26: "He, Moses, regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking forward to his reward." How could Moses known of Christ? What does it say about Moses-he was the friend of God! In Exodus 33:11 it says "the Lord

would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend.” The Father may have introduced His Son , pre-incarnate, to Moses. Moses learned to be a man of faith, was transformed through many testings, that his faith in God might be proven. God was pleased with his faith.

Let’s finish Hebrews 11 and read to the end vs. 30-40. We call this the roster of heroes of faith and the list is not yet complete-because our names, too, are to be added, we who are of a better covenant will enjoy the fruit of faithfulness, will be tested as it says in James 1:2-4.

Next week we will have further discussion of faith that is so foundational to the effective prayer we desire to offer.

We had some great discussion regarding: What is “name it, claim it faith”? What is that concept based on and why it is not based on the whole counsel of the Scriptures, taking verses out of context. Our faith is based on relationship with God, is ever-changing and ever-increasing. We heard some women share on how they had been stumbled by this approach in life and death situations. We desire to know both the written word of God and the rhema word of the Lord in these situations.