

God is Worth Following Bible Study

By Lt. Amber Herzog

Introduction

Every follower of Christ has a testimony, one in which we decided to follow God, to give our lives over to Him as our Lord and Savior. We also have additional testimonies of our encounters with the Living God and our continual commitment to follow Him.

Jesus told us in **Luke 9:23-25** that we would need to daily deny ourselves and take up our cross and follow Him. It reminds me of the hymn *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus* that speaks to following Him and not turning back, even if no one joins you, putting the world behind us and Christ and His promises before us. We make this decision because we are Confident God is Worth Following.

The word Hebrews uses for confidence (hypostasis) is an assurance that comes from action and experience. As we follow God, we remain confident and grow in our confidence that God is Worth Following. We also get to benefit from the lives and testimonies of those who went before us. Today, we look at the witness of three such men: Abel, Enoch, and Noah, each of whom chose to follow God no matter the cost.

As we consider this cloud of witnesses, let us contemplate the words of Paul in **1 Corinthians 11:1**: “Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ” (NIV).

Hebrews

Read Hebrews 11:4-7

What was Abel commended for in this passage?

What was Enoch commended for in this passage?

What was Noah commended for in this passage?

Abel

Let's consider Abel; read: **Genesis 4: 1-16**.

What was the difference between Cain's offering and Abel's offering to the Lord (see Genesis 4:6-7, 1 John 3:12, and Habakkuk 2:4)?

Righteousness is standing in the right, in your actions and in your relationships. How did Abel's heart and actions show this?

Hebrews 11:4 says that by faith Abel still speaks; look at the following verses, what do you think this means: **Genesis 4:10**, **Matthew 23:35**, and **Hebrews 12:24**?

What does **Genesis 4:1-16** teach us about God?

How does Abel's life show us that we can be confident that God is worth following?

Enoch

Now let's consider Enoch; read: **Genesis 5:18-24**.

In the NIV we find the word faithfully added into verses **22** and **24**, saying: "... Enoch walked faithfully with God 300 years... Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away" (NIV). What understanding does the word faithfully give to the passage?

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 speaks on how "to live in order to please God". The Greek used here to say how to live (peripateō) can also be translated: how to walk. What insight can we gather from the life of Enoch and this passage on how to live a life that pleases God?

What does **Genesis 5:18-24** teach us about God?

How does Enoch's life show us that we can be confident that God is worth following?

Noah

Finally, let's consider Noah, **Genesis 6:10**; read: **Genesis 6:5-7:1**.

In what ways does this passage highlight that Noah had a Holy Fear (see also **Psalms 110:10** and **Proverbs 14:26-27**)?

What would it look like to live in a world where only you and your family served God? Do you ever feel alone in your faith? How can Noah's faithfulness help us in these moments?

Read **Genesis 9:8-17** in what way does this show him as the Heir of Righteousness?

What wisdom does **1 Peter 3:18-22** add to our knowledge of Noah?

What does **Genesis 6:10** teach us about God?

How does Noah's life show us that we can be confident that God is worth following?

Conclusion

The testimonies of Abel, Enoch, and Noah show us what it looks like to live a righteous life that pleases God and shows holy fear. Their hearts as well as their actions showed their

confidence in God and in His plan. Able gave an offering from His heart, Enoch lived a life of consistent faithfulness and righteousness, and Noah obeyed God even when no one else did. Their testimonies also show us how God looks to our hearts and how He works in the lives of those who follow Him, sometimes even in miraculous ways. Our hearts and our actions matter.

God has kept His promise to Noah; He has not flooded the earth to destroy all life. He has also kept His promise to send a Savior. John 3:16 tells us: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (NIV). Hebrews 6:19 tells us that “we have this hope as an anchor for the soul” (NIV). We can be confident that God is our creator, preserver, and governor, and that He cares for us. That is something worth following with both our hearts and our actions.

Remembering that confidence is assurance that comes with actions and experiences, how does your testimony show confidence that God is worth following?

Prayer

Dearest Heavenly Father,

We thank You for who You are. We thank You that You are the way, the truth, and the life and that You love us. You love us so much that You have a plan for us, and You invite us into a relationship with You.

Thank you for the witness You have given us in the Scriptures of who You are and Your love for us.

Help us to be confident in following You with our hearts and our actions no matter what our circumstances and no matter who goes with us.

Help us to be a light in this world that shows Your love.

Thank you for all You have done for us.

In the heavenly name of Jesus, we pray.

Amen.