

Real Faith (5) – Noah: Against the Flow

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Cell Notes

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A series about Real faith lived by real people in real life in a real world.
God is Sovereign, Jesus is Lord and we are equipped by His Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 11:7

See Genesis 5:28 to Genesis 10:1

Noah in a nutshell – (Real Faith Pointers to apply to our ‘Flood-free’ lives); He was righteous. He knew God. He led his family (despite having a dodgy son). He planned for future sacrifice and offerings. He stayed faithful. He never ran ahead of God. He tested things out when God was supposedly silent. He only moved out when God spoke and as directed. He made worship a priority. He moved on after the flood. He didn’t reminisce about boat building but got on with the next job. (Tilling, planting, growing and multiplying).

Real Faith acts on God’s Word

6:13 – 16 God told Noah to build an ark but didn’t say why until v17. If God speaks - act, He’ll fill in the gaps later. Noah stepped out in real faith because he was in relationship with his God. (but bear in mind the other notes below)

Real Faith is based on God’s Word, not Bible stories

The animals went into the ark - 2 by 2 and 7 by 7. Noah took 7x7 of the ‘clean’ animals to sacrifice. Sacrifice and a heart to worship are so essential and was a key part to Noah’s relationship with and faith in God.

Storybooks tell us that there were just 2x2 of the animals, that Mary sat on a donkey to ride to Bethlehem and Jesus was born in a stable – all unbiblical. Let’s be a people who read the Bible and stay Biblical. Be true to the Word of God, not sentimental interruption. Hebrews 4:12, Psalms 119:89 & 119:105

Real Faith allows God to close doors behind us Genesis 7:16 Sometimes we step out in faith and it gets dark and smelly. We are restricted yet we were convinced that God had spoken to us. Don’t worry, - because it’s God who closed the door. Fortunately Noah didn’t try to escape. Wait rest and listen.

Real Faith knows that God will never forget you. Genesis 8:1

40 days & nights of rain (+ opening of the deep) + 150 days of floating around!

Genesis 8: 6-12 shows its ok to test where things are at. Send out a bird or two, God allows us to test things out. Noah’s heart was right before God. Don’t try to manipulate God, but do test your calling. Noah accepted that it may not yet be the time. We need that same attitude. Eventually Noah & his family were going to make dry land because God had already commissioned man to fill the earth. It was about timing. It’s a ‘Joseph’ lifestyle. Gods called you to something but there is plenty of character development to do along the way. Willingly submit to that process. See Proverbs 16:3 (Amplified) God lays things on our heart, BUT develop your calling HIS way. Have firm foundations. God will not bless unbiblical, rebellious actions if we try to ‘make it happen’. Gen 8:13. It appeared ok to leave the ark, but Noah waited for God’s voice. 8:15 God spoke & Noah obeyed and did what he’d known he was going to do.

Real Faith Gives Thanks and makes Sacrifice a priority. 8:20

There was so much to do, so much to explore but he stopped and worshipped. As we press into what God calls us to do, continually stop and worship. He had already made provision to sacrifice. Am I?

Noah's sacrifice pleased God. Do we long for that to be said about us? 8:21

People of Real Faith get blessed and are trusted to carry out God's bidding 9:1 they also receive the covenant promises.

People of Real Faith don't remain in the past they move on

Noah didn't start a business in boat building. That part of his life was over and he moved on. Walk with the Lord today. He doesn't change but we need to.

Be relevant today. For Beacon to grow and change then so must we.

Age is not an excuse. Noah was probably 601, Moses 100 and Caleb 85!

People of Real faith work in there new circumstances 9:20

Noah began farming (not sailing). Circumstances and practicalities had changed; it was time to move on. People of real faith know their God, are clothed in His righteousness, worship, sacrifice, don't look back but move on.

People of Real Faith can make mistakes! 9:21

Noah got drunk, but his actions revealed the hearts of his sons. If our leaders *might* make a mistake, sin or upset us. Remember God looks at our reaction. Do we seek to cover, or 'gently' put the boot in?

People of Real Faith are still anointed despite their mistakes. 9:24

Noah knew what Ham had done. Ham had seen all God had done to and through Noah his father. When Noah got one thing wrong he simply gloated.

People of Real Faith are part of the Family or Body 7:1, 7:7, 8:16

Noah went through the ark building, flood, sacrifices and new beginnings with his family, not just him and God. There is absolutely no place for independence in the kingdom of God. Proverbs 18:1.

God loves and saves us as an individual, but places us into His Body. It's about Him & His Body, not my preferences.

Helpful Pointers and Responses for People of Real faith

Be clothed in God's gift of righteousness, Know God and His Son Jesus
Be in relationship with God. Be obedient. Listen and then act. Don't be afraid to push doors and test things out. Plan to sacrifice and worship. Move on into God's new plan for your life. Remember we are God's covenant people. If you sin, return quickly to the throne of grace and continue to move in God's anointing. Cover your brother and sisters failings in love. Jesus did that for us.

Cell Questions

- Has God's work in your life affected your natural and church family?
- Has God ever closed your door and if so, what lessons did I learn?
- How can we practically live sacrificial lives full of faith and worship?
- Does this story point to Jesus and how is it relevant to Herne Bay now?
- How should being part of the Body change me? Give examples.