

Bereans Bible Institute

Module XII – Faithful Shepherds

Lesson 3. For We Fly by IFR and not by VFR

I. Blind Faith:

A. People speak of “blind faith” as wishful thinking (believing God will do something that He has not specifically promised you). Doomed to failure.

B. The ONLY “faith” that pleases God is trusting God and thus obeying Him in spite of what you see, feel, or think.

1. 2 Cor. 5:7 “For we **walk** [not arrive] by faith, **not by sight**”

2. Rom. 14:23, “...whatever is not of faith is sin.”

3. Prov. 3:5-7 “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And **lean not on your own understanding**; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; **Fear the LORD** and depart from evil.”

II. Examples of those who walked by faith in **blind** obedience without rationalizing or excuses:

A. Hebrews 11:1-2 *Now faith is the supporting structure of anticipation, the persuasion of **unseen** ventures, 2 for in this the elders were documented. 3 In faith we recognize that the ages have been organized by the declaration of God, resulting in what is being observed not having transpired from what is apparent.*

1. The “faith” that pleases God and guarantees His grace is trust in the unseen.

a. is based on His promises.

b. requires blind obedience to His commands

B. vs. 4 *In faith Abel offered to God a greater sacrifice than Cain, through which he was documented to be just when God testified over his offerings. Through this, having died, he still speaks.*

1. Abel obeyed blindly without question

2. Cain filtered God’s command through his own reasoning

3. Abel still “speaks” to us by his documented example

C. vss. 5-6 *In faith Enoch was transported to avoid seeing death, and was not located because God transported him. For before his transporting he was documented to have **fully pleased God**. 6 (And without faith it is impossible to fully please [God], for the one approaching God must believe that He exists and [that He] is becoming the benefactor of those who search for Him).*

1. The kind of “faith” that pleases God is blind obedience.

2. It is impossible to please God when we second-guess Him.

D. vs. 7 *In faith Noah, being apprised about what was as yet **unseen**, being **reverent**, constructed an ark for the saving of his household. Through this **he condemned the world and became an heir of the justice according to the Faith**.*

1. Noah was obedient to a command that seemed absurd (it had never rained)

2. He obeyed because he was “reverent” (He feared God)

3. By his blind faith he condemned the rest who scoffed at the unseen

4. By his blind faith **he became an heir** of the promised inheritance

5. This implies that those who fail under such tests will not have the inheritance

6. Your faith WILL be tested and IS BEING tested through various trials:

1 Pet. 1:5-7 “[You] who are being guarded in the power of God, through FAITH, unto the deliverance ready to be revealed in the appointed end time. 6 In this you celebrate greatly though now, if necessary for a bit, you have been grieved by various trials, so that **the testing of your FAITH**, being much more valuable than gold which perishes, **yet being tested by fire**, may be found unto praise and value and honor in the revelation of Jesus Anointed.”

E. vss. 8-10 In faith Abraham, having been called, obeyed, migrating to the place which he was expecting to receive as the inheritance. And **he left not knowing where he was going**. 9 In faith he lodged in the Land of promise **as a foreigner, living in tents** with Isaac and Jacob, the co-heirs of the same promise. 10 For he was waiting for the city having foundations, whose designer and fashioner is God.

1. Abraham set reasoning and second-guessing aside, and obeyed blindly trusting God’s promise and His command.

2. He endured hardship, giving up his country, his rights, comfort, & security.

3. He waited for an as yet unseen city (Restored Jerusalem) which we also seek

F. vss. 13 These all died according to the Faith, not having received the promises, **but observing them far ahead, and being persuaded and embracing [them]**, also acknowledged that they were aliens and foreigners in the Land.

1. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob looked to the unseen promise, this dictated their consistent “walk” of obedience in the fear of God.

2. Abraham had to depart his homeland (security) to live in faith, pleasing God.

3. He had to live as a foreigner and alien, and so must we.

a. “Taking back America” and trusting in Trump is the antithesis of the Abrahamic Faith.

G. Hebrews 12:1-2 Certainly, we also, having such **a massive cloud of witnesses** surrounding us, tossing aside every excess load and plaguing sin, should run with endurance the grueling course lying ahead of us, 2 looking unto the Founder and Finisher of the Faith – Jesus.

1. The “witnesses” are not spectators; like Abel, all of these “speak” to us defining the ONLY kind of “faith” that pleases God.

2. We MUST follow these examples if we expect to inherit the promises along with them.

3. Jesus is the ultimate example: His obedience based on His faith in God to raise Him from the dead and to give Him the inheritance promised in Psalm 2 drove Him to the utmost “inconvenience” – rejection by virtually everyone including His disciples, and then an agonizing death alone.

4. Compare that to modern Christians who not only disregard God’s very explicit commands, conjure up excuses and rationalizations for their disobedience, and base their decisions on convenience, comfort, and temporal security. These will not withstand in the evil day but will apostatize from the Faith.

III. Counter-examples of people who walked by sight (rationalizing) and not by blind faith because **they did not fear God** (pride and arrogance).

- A. Cain brought an offering he thought was better than what God said.
- B. Lot's wife thought better than God's command not to look back.
- C. Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu brought different fire than what God prescribed.
- D. The Israelites believed the bad report of the 10 spies
- E. Achan took some of the forbidden booty; it cost him his life
- F. Saul took some of the forbidden booty; it cost him the kingdom
- G. Uzzah reached out to steady the Ark of God, it cost him his life

IV. Piloting an aircraft is the perfect illustration.

A. 2 types of training and licensing of recreational pilots

1. VFR – “visual flight rules” – learning to fly in daytime and good weather using three inputs:

- a. Instruments (air-speed ind., artificial horizon, altimeter, turn coordinator, directional indicator, vertical speed indicator).
- b. Visual landmarks & orientation
- c. “Seat of the pants” inertial forces acting on the body.
- d. VFR pilots quickly become disoriented when visibility is obscured.

1. “seat of the pants” instinct overcomes faith in flight instruments
2. [Example: JFK Jr.](#) crashed his Piper Saratoga into the Atlantic off Martha's Vineyard killing himself, his wife, and sister-in-law.

2. IFR – “instrument flight rules” – learning to fly by instruments alone (at night & in bad weather with zero visibility).

- a. completely ignoring what is outside the cockpit windows
- b. completely ignoring the “seat of the pants” forces on the body
- c. completely trusting flight instruments against “seat of the pants” forces

B. A “faithful shepherd” must be a well-trained pilot.

1. Your passengers will die with you or arrive safely in the Kingdom with you.
2. We are heading into the mother of all storms with zero visibility (false visibility from mass deceptions and fake news on both sides).
3. The “*so great cloud of witnesses*” and Jesus' example are your flight instruments.
4. Get your IFR training now before future mistakes cost your life and your whole family.