

I HAVE FAITH FOR THIS!

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Faith And Generosity

(Part 6 of a 8 part series)

Do you have a story or testimony to share? Email us at stories@hillsong.co.za

INTRODUCTION

In a world brimming with uncertainty and challenges, faith becomes our anchor and guide. Throughout this series, we will explore the profound impact of understanding what faith is, why it is important and how we can operate in it. Drawing inspiration from scripture and the powerful biblical stories, personal testimonies, and practical teachings, together, we will delve into what it means to possess unwavering faith, how to cultivate it in the face of adversity, and the extraordinary outcomes that faith can bring.

Join us as we embark on this spiritual journey, deepening our trust in God's promises and discovering the boundless possibilities that arise when we declare, "**I have faith for this.**"

We believe this series will:

- Equip our church to live lives of great faith.
 - Teach our church how faith is the currency of the Kingdom of God.
 - Empower people to activate faith in their lives.
 - Challenge people to live expectant for the blessing, favour and power of Jesus in every area of their lives.
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KEY VERSE

Hebrews 11:4 (NIV): "By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead."

DISCOVERY

In this verse, the author of Hebrews highlights Abel's faith and his generous offering to God which led him to bring a better offering to God than his brother Cain. Abel's offering was considered better because it was given in faith.

This verse teaches us valuable lessons about the relationship between our faith and our willingness to give. Faith is not just belief but a deep trust in God that moves us to act in ways that honor Him. Abel's faith made his offering acceptable to God, and as a result, he was commended as righteous. **Faith inspires generosity and how our giving reflects our trust in God.** Even after his death, Abel's faith and generosity continue to speak to us, providing a powerful example of how faith can shape our actions and offerings.

DISCUSSION

Starting Question:

Discuss a time in your life when someone has been generous to you?

Do you recall what impact that had on your life?

Exploring Questions:

Q1: Hebrews 11:4 (NIV): "By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did."

Abel's offering was better because it was given in faith. This connection shows that true generosity flows from a heart of faith, trusting in God's provision and responding to His goodness.

When you think about generosity, what comes to mind, and how do you see it connected to faith?

Q2: Genesis 4:3-5 (NIV): "In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor."

Abel's offering was the best of what he had – the firstborn of his flock and their fat portions. This act of giving his best demonstrates his deep faith and reverence for God. In contrast, Cain's offering seemed to lack the same level of faith and commitment.

Share an example in your life when you maybe have not given God your best?

Q3: 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (NIV): "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Our generosity can be a powerful expression of our faith. When we give generously and cheerfully, we demonstrate our trust in God's provision and our desire to honor Him with our resources.

How can our generosity reflect our faith in God today?

Action Question:

Matthew 6:19-21 (NIV): "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Jesus teaches us to focus on heavenly treasures rather than earthly ones. By giving generously, we invest in God's kingdom and align our hearts with His purposes. Consider how you can contribute to others in a way that reflects your faith and commitment to God's work.

What is one specific way you can demonstrate faith through generosity this week?

DEVOTION

Abel's example teaches us that faith and generosity are deeply interconnected. His faith led him to give the best of what he had to God, and **this act of generosity was commended as righteous**. As we strive to live out our faith, let us be inspired by Abel's example to give generously and wholeheartedly, trusting in God's provision and honoring Him with our resources.

Take a moment to reflect on how you can practice generosity in your daily life.

Identify a specific action you can take this week to demonstrate your faith through giving. It could be helping a neighbor in need, going the extra mile for a colleague or fellow student.

Share your commitment with the group and pray for one another, asking God to deepen your faith and guide your acts of generosity.