

**ESF, Lord's Day Service Message**  
**6/19/2011**

**The Faith of a Father**  
Genesis 6:9-22

*This is the account of Noah.*

*Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God. <sup>10</sup> Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth. <sup>11</sup> Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. <sup>12</sup> God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. <sup>13</sup> So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. <sup>14</sup> So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. <sup>15</sup> This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. <sup>16</sup> Make a roof for it and finish the ark to within 18 inches of the top. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks. <sup>17</sup> I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. <sup>18</sup> But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark--you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. <sup>19</sup> You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. <sup>20</sup> Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. <sup>21</sup> You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them." <sup>22</sup> Noah did everything just as God commanded him.*

In 1983, John Sculley quit his post at Pepsico to become the president of Apple Computer. He took a big risk leaving his prestigious position with a well-established firm to join ranks with an unproven little outfit that offered no guarantee, only the excitement of one man's transforming vision. Sculley says he

made the risky move after Apple cofounder Steve Jobs goaded him with the question, “Do you want to spend the rest of your life selling sugared water or do you want a chance to change the world?”

The vision of one man, Steve Jobs, has changed the world of modern computer technology.

However, the faith of a father Noah, has changed the history of all mankind.

—————> **Video clip** (Who is my dad?)  
**(Please stop at 1 minutes 22 seconds)**  
<http://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/kindergarten-cop/my-dad>

The word in verse 9 says: “Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time.” It does not mean that he was a sinless person or morally faultless person. It means that he was a man of faith.

Hebrews 11:7 interprets the faith of Noah as following: “*By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.*”

Through the example of Noah’s faith, God teaches us how a father’s faith can lead his home to God’s blessing, and can change the world.

### **Faith overcomes all fears**

Noah lived in a dark time. That’s the whole point of the beginning of Genesis 6. Wickedness had grown to the point of no return. Every inclination of men’s hearts was toward increasing violence and injustice. A plague of evil spread from home to home and heart to heart. With corrupt hearts, they did terrible things to each other: deceiving, hating, betraying, hurting, and killing.

At that time, God told Noah to build an ark. The ark was to be *450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high*. In today's way of measurement, it was about 4 stories high and as long as a football field and a half. Noah was also far away from the closest body of water! Until that time, there had never been any flood that required such a huge boat. When God told Noah to build the ark, there was no rain, and no sign of any flood.

Who could explain a need for such a boat and the concept of a flood under these conditions? People must have ridiculed Noah when he was building the ark. They must have called him "crazy."

If he had been afraid of the people saying he was crazy, he would not have built the ark. But Noah built the ark as God told him. Noah overcame the fear of the people. He was courageous to go against the trend of the people in his time. How could he be so courageous? Such courage came from his faith in the word of God's promise: *I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, ... But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark--you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you* (verses 17-18).

Noah was able to believe in the promise by listening to the word of God, while all other people in his generation did not listen. Noah listened to not only God's words of promise but also to all God's commands and instructions.

Before her death, Mother Teresa gave an interview to Dan Rather, who asked, "What do you do when you pray? She said without hesitation, "I listen." To which Dan Rather replied, "What does God do?" Mother Teresa said, "He listens."

Noah had the same experience. He gained his faith by listening to God. God spoke to Noah through every chapter of Gen 6-9,

revealed to Noah His plans, and directed Noah about the ark, into the ark (Gen 7:1), out of the ark (Gen 8:15). And Noah listened to all these words and did exactly as the words said (Gen 6:22, 7:5).

Faith in the promise of the almighty God gave Noah the courage to overcome all fears and attempt the great task. When his family saw his courage they followed his leadership. His wife, his sons, his daughters-in-law, they all followed his leadership without raising any doubt or challenge.

Fathers! To lead your family into God's blessing especially during a difficult time, you need courageous leadership. Courage to overcome all fears and doubts does not come from confidence in yourselves. It comes from confidence in God's word of promise. Before you ask your wives and children to listen to you, listen to God. When you listen to God well, God gives you faith. Through faith, God makes you strong and courageous. And your wives and children will see the difference in you and will follow your leadership.

### **Faith overcomes all trials**

To lead a family, a father needs strength to overcome trials.

Noah's faith enabled him to overcome all trials. What kind of trials did he face? And what was his faith?

While he was building the ark there was no rain for a long time. Lots of people did not care about God's warning of judgment and mocked what Noah was doing. While all other people spent their time and money for their own pleasures, Noah spent most of his time and money to build the ark. He sacrificed everything he had to build the ark.

It was also very difficult for Noah to build such a huge ark. He was not a fisherman or carpenter, who would be familiar with a boat or

ship. He was a farmer (Genesis 9:20). As a farmer, he did not have any knowledge or experience with which to build a ship. He did not have any carpenter or worker to help him, because nobody in his time believed that building the ark was from God's command. He had only his family of seven people-his wife, his three sons and their wives. His wife and his three daughters-in-law could not do much to build the ark. So he had to build the ark only with his three sons' help. Then, how many days did he spend to finish the task of building the ark? It was a hard, long, painstaking job.

After he finished building the ark and entered the ark with his family, God sent the flood to destroy every man on earth. The waters flooded the earth for 150 days (7:24). It was a dreadful scene. Although he and his family could survive by staying in the ark, such massive destruction on earth gave him a dark feeling.

However, he endured and overcame all those trials. He finished the task of building the ark. He endured staying in the ark until it was safe for him and his family to land on earth again.

Such endurance came from his faith in looking up to God. With faith in God's promise of deliverance, he constantly looked up to God. If he had looked at only the trials he was facing, he would have become depressed and discouraged. But he constantly looked up to God, who had promised him deliverance. Noah was not looking down at the devastation. He looked up to God and trusted in God's promise. And he was able to endure and overcome all trials.

This is the power of faith. The power of faith enables you to endure all trials. If we have faith in God's promise, we can take all trials in our lives not as meaningless sufferings, but as necessary in our paths to receive God's blessings. James 1:2-4 says, *Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops*

*perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*

Fathers, you are the backbones of your families. You are the ones who must stand strong, when your families are in trials. When there seems to be no way, don't look down. Look up! Keep your head up. When your families are facing enormous troubles and obstacles, turn your eyes from them to the almighty God. God will give you strength to endure all trials and overcome them.

**Faith overcomes all the impossible.**

When God poured out His judgment on earth through the flood, nothing could save men from the flood. We have seen and heard of many floods that destroyed homes and people's lives, like the tsunamis in Indonesia, or in Japan. But the flood in Noah's time was greater than all other floods.

*"...rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. .... The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than twenty feet. Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; ..." (Genesis 7:12-23).*

In such a worldwide destructive flood, there was no way for man to survive. Money could not help anyone survive. Knowledge could not help anyone survive. Man's power could not help anyone survive. There was nothing man could do to survive.

But there was a way that helped a man survive. It was to believe in and obey God's word. It was to live by faith in God's way of deliverance. Only through living by faith, was Noah given God's way of deliverance from the destruction of the flood.

It was not Noah's effort to build the ark that saved him and his family from the flood. It is faith that enabled him to build the ark. By faith in God's word that He would send the flood and wipe

away all corrupt mankind, Noah built the ark. By faith in God's word that He would save him and his family through the ark, he and his family could be saved. It is through faith that he received God's favor. It is this faith by which God regarded him as a righteous man. Building the ark was the result of his faith. Even if he had built the ark, he would not have been saved if he did not have faith. *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God* (Ephesians 2:8).

God has given man the way of deliverance through Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the ark. In Christ, there is deliverance from all destruction.

By believing in God's way of deliverance in Christ, anybody can be saved.

Listen to how the New Testament used this story of Noah to remind us of the salvation that comes through Christ. *“...when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also...It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand...”* (1 Peter 3:18-22).

Fathers, when you and your families are facing impossible obstacles, put Jesus at the center of your families. Trust that He is the ark in which you and your family can overcome all the impossible obstacles.

He will surely deliver you and your families from all the impossible obstacles.