

Faith Or Foolishness?

Ponder: How can you tell the difference?

Scripture: "Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did" (Gen. 6:22, NKJV).

Why would a man build a barge 450 feet long, 150 feet wide, and three stories high? His neighbors might easily have concluded that Noah had taken leave of his senses. How foolish he must have looked to the wicked world around him!

But Noah was no fool! "By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household . . ." (Heb. 11:7). Noah was acting by faith. God had told him to build the ark; Noah trusted and obeyed.

For me to build such a vessel today would demonstrate foolishness, not faith! God hasn't told me to build an ark. He has, in fact, assured us that He will never again send a flood upon the entire world as He did during Noah's time.

Jesus once told Peter to come to Him as He walked on the water (Matt. 14:28-29). As Peter stepped out of the boat, a worldly person might have viewed him as foolish. In truth, however, he was acting by faith. Only when that faith faltered did Peter begin to sink.

Should you take a boat out onto a lake and step out onto the water? Not unless you're wearing a life jacket! It wouldn't be faith, but foolishness. The Lord hasn't told you to walk on water, nor does His word indicate He will suspend the law of gravity if you attempt it.

Since faith comes by hearing God's word (Rom. 10:17), diligent study of God's word helps us understand how to walk by faith. We learn that the commands to build an ark and to walk on water don't apply to us. Such obvious examples teach us to ask important questions: "Who said this? To whom was it said? Under what covenant did they live? What other passages help us understand this one?"

Every man doing what is right in his own eyes (Jud. 17:6) is not walking by faith. Let us not foolishly presume that anything we like is right, but trust God and obey His word.

Hymn: "Trust And Obey"

Prayer: Father, we thank You for Your word that produces faith in our hearts. Help us to walk by faith. In Jesus' name, Amen.