



## [Hebrews 11:7](#)

(7) By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

*New King James Version*

The Bible does not explain how Noah became aware of the grace he had been given. Even so, it enabled him, first, by sanctifying him and giving him the spiritual [faith](#) to respond properly to the warning [God](#) gave. [Hebrews 11:7](#) reveals that Noah reacted by moving with godly fear, that is, with a deep reverential respect, indicating that, though he was awed by the complexity and size of what God had charged him to do, he nonetheless immediately accepted the task and began doing what he could.

[Genesis 6:9](#) adds detail to Noah's character, describing him as "just," "righteous," or "godly," and saying that he "walked with God." The latter phrase suggests that, despite all the conflicting corruption surrounding him, he moved through life in step with God, doing his work alongside Him.

It also says he was "perfect in his generations" or "blameless among his contemporaries." "Blameless" is a kind of code word that indicates he was justified by faith in the blood of [Jesus Christ](#). He was a converted man.

Notice that the verse does not say Noah received grace as a result of already conducting his life with all those good attributes. Instead, he was leading his life righteously *because* he had first found God's grace, the gifting by which God enabled him. The way he lived his life is the proof that he had found God's favor and *then* began conducting his life as Scripture describes. The favor, the grace, empowered him to accomplish what is recorded. God follows this pattern with everyone He sanctifies.

[James 2:17-18](#) tells us that true faith will reveal itself by what it produces. The product will be in agreement with God's righteousness, and it will separate, set apart, that

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person from those around him who do not have the same faith. The grace, the favor, the gifts of God, always precede anything produced within the purpose and calling of God.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

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