

Faith Like Abraham's 2021-04-11

Hebrews 11:8-13

8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

9 By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. 10 For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

11 By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. 12 Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

13 These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

Chapter 11 Faith Hall of Fame....more on Abraham than anyone else!

- Abraham is an example of how to consistently live a life of faith in our faithful God.
 - Saving faith alters the way you look at world and yourself and how you live.

Genuine faith is not just saying trust God but obey Him. Hebrews 11:8

- God specifically called 70 year old Abraham (pagan) to leave family/country (now Iraq), to unknown place: Abraham obeyed God's effectual call. John 6:44,
 - Abraham risked everything on God's promise.
 - What have you risked for the sake of the Gospel?

Life of faith trusts God, acts on promises, view self/world through Gospel. Hebrews 11:9-10, 13b

- Abraham, alien in foreign land, dwelling in temporary housing... tents.
 - heir to promised land never owned land in it except wife's burial cave.
 - He lived understanding this world is not home or final destination.
 - faith helped him daily live focused on eternity, not this life only.
- We too strangers/aliens/exiles living in tents in foreign land. ESPECIALLY NOW!
 - just passing through earth until we get to our heavenly homeland.
 - Living with eternal perspective will alter way you live.

Like foreigners stand out way do things, Christian should live different than native people.

- look for ultimate fulfillment/hope in Jesus Christ/eternal inheritance not things of earth.
 - Enjoy all God provides, but real treasures in heaven. 1 Timothy 6:17-19
- God's will/Word directs our life's purpose and even pleasures in life.
 - Obey God's Word when inconvenient/difficult....not PC.
 - Obey Holy Spirit's leading (call/pray/\$) even when it does not make sense.

Stand out from world by trusting God to do what is humanly impossible.

Hebrews 11:11-12, Romans 4:18

- Abraham had full understanding of obstacles in way of promise.
 - disregarded and believed God's promise of son and multitude descendants.
- Many times faith requires us look beyond circumstances.
 - things experience, reason, probability would say impossible. Matthew 10:27
 - marriage restoration, salvation, healing, sin stronghold, depression
 - Don't go through alone...elders, COMMEND body in this area.

Keep praying with faith and trusting God to do what most glorifies Him in his time.

Hebrews 11:13-16

- Never own any Promised land except burial cave, always lived in tents without foundation, died with 1 son, 2 grandsons...not multitudes of descendants!
 - Died without receiving promises yet never abandoned faith in God/promises.
- Christian acted in faith on God's promises: forgiven, heavenly eternal life, Jesus Christ
 - See with faith invisible inheritance: heavenly not earthly, future not present
- If focused on heaven/God's promises, can live in any circumstance in this life.

Saving faith alters the way you look at world, yourself and how you live.

- See self as alien in foreign world. Stand apart from/don't put hope in world.
 - Live eyes on better country, heavenly one where all God's promises completely fulfilled in Jesus Christ.