



## Lesson 50

### Lesson 50: What Is Faith? (Part 6) Faith of Abraham (Part 1)

Scripture: Hebrews 11:8-10

#### Faith So Far

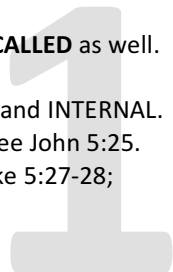
- (v. 4) Abel – a worshipping faith.
- (vv. 5-6) Enoch – a walking faith.
- (v. 7) Noah – a working faith.
- (v. 8-19) Abraham – a waiting faith.

#### Abraham's Faith (Hebrews 11:8-19)

- (v. 8) Abraham did not know **where** he was going.
- (vv. 11-12) Abraham and Sarah did not know **how** God would accomplish His plan.
- (vv. 13-16) Abraham did not know **when** God would fulfill His promise.
- (vv. 17-19) Abraham did not know **why** God was working as He was working.

#### Abraham's Call (Hebrews 11:8)

- The "father of all them that believe" – Romans 4:16
  - Abraham is the "earthly head" of the elect.
  - If we are "in Christ" then we are heirs of the **same** promise as Abraham. (See Galatians 3:7, 29)
  - Abraham's children should do the same "work" as Abraham. (John 8:39)
  - **AS OPPOSED TO** the devil! (John 8:44)
- Just as Abraham was **CALLED**, so too, all the **ELECT** are **CALLED** as well. See Romans 8:28, 29-30.
- REMEMBER there are TWO kinds of CALLS – EXTERNAL and INTERNAL.
- The **INTERNAL** call comes from **GOD** and it gives **LIFE**. See John 5:25.
- Examples of the **INTERNAL** call: Matthew (or Levi) – Luke 5:27-28; Zacchaeus – Luke 19:5-6; Saul of Tarsus – Acts 9:4-5.



- The **INTERNAL** call is an **INVINCIBLE** call of God. It is an act of **SOVEREIGN GRACE**. It is accompanied by the **QUICKENING POWER** of God to give LIFE to those who are **DEAD** in their trespasses (Ephesians 2:1-5; Romans 9:19; Job 23:13-14).
- There is **NOTHING** in the recipient that causes God to call him/her. See Isaiah 51:1-2.
- This **CALL** is one in which **GOD** chooses to **REVEAL** Himself and He does so **ONE on ONE**. See Isaiah 51:2 – **“alone”**. (Matthew 11:25-27; 16:17; Jeremiah 1:5-8; 1 Corinthians 1:27)
  - God is a **DISCRIMINATING** God – He chose Abel over Cain; Isaac over Ishmael; Jacob over Esau – see Romans 9:18.
  - Acts 7:2 – The **“God of glory”** appeared (revealed) Himself to Abraham.
- This **CALL** causes the recipient **“to see”** God. (John 3:3; See Job 42:5; Deuteronomy 29:5; Jeremiah 5:21; 2 Corinthians 4:4.
- This **CALL** makes God a living **REALITY!!**

## Abraham’s Test of Faith

- See Genesis 12:1 – this was **NO EASY** test for **FLESH** and **BLOOD!**
- This was even a **HARDER TEST** for a man already 70 years old!
- God’s **INTERNAL CALL** calls its recipients to a **complete** break from the old life.
- Jesus gives the same test to those who desire to be His disciples.
  - Luke 9:23 – those who deny self, take up their crosses daily and follow Him.
  - Luke 9:24-25 – those who give up rule of their lives to Christ.
  - Luke 14:26 – those who love Christ more than family and themselves.
  - Luke 9:57-62 – those who set Christ as **THE PRIORITY** of all they do.
  - Luke 14:33 – those who are willing to forsake **ALL** for Christ.
- We are called to *separate* ourselves from any **“worldly”** ties! Our citizenship is now in **HEAVEN!** (Philippians 3:20)
- We are *ekklesia* (**“church”**) – **“CALLED OUT ONES”**.
- God’s call demanded Abraham’s affections be set on Him. Self-will, self-love, and self-pleasure – **SELF** had to be set aside.
- God’s call called Abraham to **ACT CONTRARY** to his nature!
- (Hebrews 11:8) This verse focuses on Abraham’s **OBEDIENCE!**
  - Faith and obedience always go together – consider carefully Hebrews 5:9
  - Faith and obedience is like **SUN and LIGHT** and **FIRE and HEAT**.
  - In Romans it is called **“obedience of faith”** – Romans 1:5

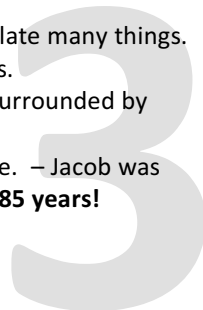
- In Galatians we read “faith works by love” – Galatians 5:6
- In 1 Thessalonians it is called “work of faith” - 1 Thessalonians 1:3
- (Hebrews 11:8) Abraham left **NOT** knowing where he was going!
  - He walked/lived by faith **NOT BY SIGHT**. (Hebrews 10:38; Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11)
  - The world (his friends and family) would consider him **crazy! Does the world consider US crazy?**
- Abraham’s faith required at least four things of him:
  - ① He had to set his affection on things above and not below. (Colossians 3:2; Isaiah 26:3-4)
  - ② He was required to walk by faith and not by sight.
  - ③ He had to walk a path obedience to God’s commands – Matt. 7:14, 24-29)
  - ④ He had to live to please God and not himself. (1 Thess 4:1; 2 Timothy 2:3-4; Colossians 1:10)

### Was Abraham’s Obedience Perfect?

- NO! And this MUST BE so for the “TYPE” to be perfect.
- There has been only ONE PERFECT life lived!
- Abraham’s obedience was partial and late!
- **BUT** Abraham’s faith is for our **WARNING** and our **LEARNING!**
- Though Abraham failed, GOD’s long-suffering, grace, and unchanging faithfulness shines!

### Living in a Strange Land (Hebrews 11:9)

- A “strange land” **BUT** a land of **PROMISE**.
- The Canaanites lived there but GOD made a PROMISE.
- Abraham STAYED because his affections and hope were set on God’s PROMISE and NOT the CIRCUMSTANCES.
- Abraham did not BUILD a PERMANENT building but lived in TENTS.
  - Buildings have FOUNDATIONS **rooted** in the earth (world).
  - Tents have no foundations.
  - Those in buildings have the tendency to accumulate many things.
  - Those who live in tents normally have **few** things.
  - Abraham trusted God (Psalm 34:7) while living surrounded by unbelievers.
- (v. 9) Abraham persevered in his faith for a **long** time. – Jacob was born **after** Abraham had sojourned in Canaan for **85 years!**



## Waiting for the **REAL Thing** (Hebrews 11:10)

- Certainly, Abraham was set on things above and not on things down here.
- Abraham was looking for a CITY:
  - ① A city is a civil society with government – heaven will be inhabited with angels and saints and ruled by God.
  - ② In biblical times, a city (walled) was a place of safety! Saints will live eternity in safety from sin, Satan, and death in heaven.
  - ③ A city is well stocked with provisions – so in Heaven we will not lack anything.
- Abraham lived by FAITH as we are exhorted to by Paul in 2 Corinthians 4:16-18.
- Abraham's faith allowed him **"TO SEE"** Christ's day – and this caused him to rejoice. John 8:56.

