



Lesson 52

Lesson 52: What Is Faith? (Part 8) Faith of Abraham (Part 3)

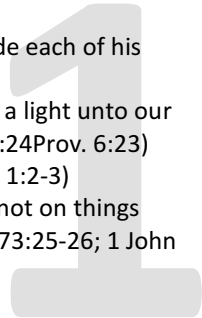
Scripture: Hebrews 11:13-16

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.

They Died in Faith (Hebrews 11:13)

- They persevered until the END!
 - Matthew 10:22; 24:13; Romans 2:7; Hebrews 3:14; 6:11
 - They **fought the good fight** of faith till the end. (2 Tim. 4:6-8; 1 Tim 6:12)
 - They **finished the race**. (Acts 20:24; 1 Cor. 9:24-27; Philippi 3:13-14; Hebrews 12:1-2)
- ✘ In contrast to: Matthew 13:20-22
- In order to “die in faith” one must “live in faith.” To live by faith:
 - ① One must diligently work at obtaining a knowledge of spiritual truths.
 - The mind must be taught before it can lead us in the right path.
 - We must daily pray: “Teach me your way.” (Psalm 86:11; 5:8; 25:4; 27:11; 119:33; 143:10)
 - ② One must use the knowledge of the Word to guide each of his steps.
 - The Word of God is a lamp unto our path and a light unto our feet. (Psalm 119:105; 18:28; 43:3; 32:8; 73:24 Prov. 6:23)
 - ③ One must meditate often on God’s Word. (Psalm 1:2-3)
 - ④ One must set his affections on things above and not on things below. (Col 3:2; Matt 16:23; Philip 1:23; Psalm 73:25-26; 1 John 2:15-17)



The Faith Was in the Promises (Hebrews 11:13)

- God had promise and that was enough.
- Think **HARD!** How little of information that had concerning God's promises compared to what we have today!!
- God spoke and it must be!
- They did not have the fulfillment of the promise but they had God's Word and that was enough!
- God's Word should be **ENOUGH** — seeking after signs only show that we do not trust God's Word!

They SAW the Promises (Hebrews 11:13)

- Their faith made the promises "visible" – it made them **REAL**.
- Abraham "saw" Christ's day. John 8:56
- Moses "saw" Christ! Hebrews 11:25-27
- Job had "heard" but now he "saw". Job 42:5

The Promises Assured Them (v. 13)

- Their faith gave them confidence.
- What they "saw" persuaded them!

They Made the Promises Their Own (v. 13)

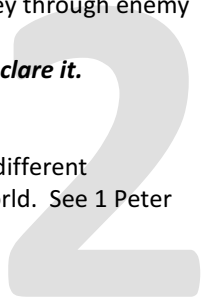
- They "embraced" the Word of God.
- "to embrace" literally means "to receive joyfully."

They Confessed! (vv. 13-14)

- Because their faith made God's Word **REAL** to them they had no problem in ***openly declaring*** their faith.
- (v. 14) They declared ***plainly*** that they were ***seeking*** (had their eyes on) a homeland – literally – "one father's land".

Strangers and Pilgrims (Hebrews 11:13; 1 Peter 2:9-11)

- Life is a **journey** through a "foreign" land. It is a journey through enemy territory.
- Our citizenship is in **HEAVEN** and we should ***openly declare it***. (Philippians 3:20-21)
- We should appear to be **STRANGERS**:
 - We should dress different, speak different, enjoy different entertainment, behave differently from the world. See 1 Peter 1:15-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7.



- In this world we should expect to be treated as STRANGERS, but in HEAVEN we will be treated as CITIZENS.
- We are PILGRIMS because we are on “a way” (Matthew 7:13-14).
 - As pilgrims we will meet only a few going the **same** way.
- See Gen 23:4; 47:9; 1 Chron 29:14-15; Psa 39:12; 119:19; 1 Pet 1:17; 2:11.

The Temptation (Hebrews 11:15-16)

- It would be EASY to go back!
 - The Canaanites would not be upset but would even encourage them.
 - The Chaldeans would welcome them home!
 - Life would be easier and more comfortable!
- **BUT** these “heros of faith” had their **minds** set on something **GREATER!**
- Since they were seeking (v. 14) and desiring (v. 16) something greater they did not have “the mind” to “go back.”
- **BUT THE OPPORTUNITY IS ALWAYS THERE!!**
- See Isaiah 26:3-4; Psalm 42:1-2; Psalm 63:1-3; Habakkuk 3:16-18; Matthew 10:37; Philippians 3:8.

Their GREAT Reward (Hebrews 11:16)

- Their reward was NOT here on earth - it was a **heavenly** one.
- GOD was their REWARD (See Genesis 15:1; Psalm 73:25-26).
- GOD has PREPARED us a CITY! See Revelation 21:2

