



Lesson 53

Lesson 53: What Is Faith? (Part 9) Faith of Abraham (Part 4)

Scripture: Hebrews 11:17-19

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.
a persevering faith.
a tested 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

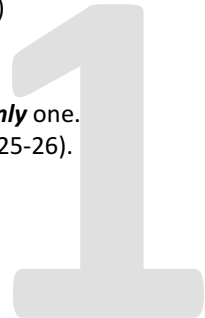
They Confessed! (vv. 13-14)

- 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)

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

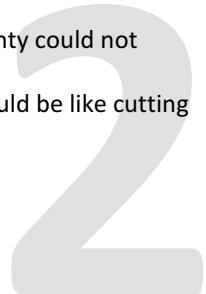


The Effectiveness of Biblical Faith

- The writer of Hebrews is teaching us (as he writes to his readers) the effectiveness of faith:
 - ① It sustains us through great trials
 - ② It equips us in performing difficult tasks
 - ③ It helps us to obtain very important blessings.

“By Faith, Abraham” (v. 17)

- Abraham’s trial: See Genesis 22:1-2.
- God’s TESTINGS:
 - ① GOD **tests** His people’s faith. See Deuteronomy 8:2-3; 13:3; James 1:2-3; 1 Cor. 11:19; 2 Chronicles 32:31; 1 Peter 1:7; 4:12.; Job 23:10.
 - ② It is through these trials that our FAITH is perfected (refined).
 - ▶ James 1:2-4; Romans 5:3-4; 2 Corinthians 4:17
 - ③ It is through trials that we testify to the world.
 - ④ It is through trials that we see the condition of our faith.
- The nature of Abraham’s test:
 - ① It was a test of his SUBMISSION and LOYALTY to God.
 - God asked for what was HIS! See 1 Chronicles 29:11
 - ② It was a test of his AFFECTIONS – whom did He really love more – GOD or his only beloved son, Isaac.
 - Christ commands the same of ALL those would call themselves Christians. See Luke 14:26-27.
 - ③ It was a test of which was stronger in him – grace or sin.
 - ④ It was a test of his FAITH – a very SEVERE test:
 - Abraham was called to slay his son – not a bullock or a herd of bullocks; not a faithful servant; not to “cast him out” but to slay him; without any given reason; one who had done no crime!
 - **God’s PROMISE was centered in Isaac.** In calling him to kill Isaac it *appeared* that God was contradicting Himself.
 - Ishmael had already been cast out.
 - Sarah’s womb was dead and Abraham certainly could not imagine having another son with Sarah.
 - Isaac himself was childless and to kill him would be like cutting off all hope.



- In offering up Isaac it *seemed* . . .
 - Abraham would be destroying his own family.
 - He would be canceling all of the promises of God.
 - He would be preventing the coming of the promised Messiah.
 - He would be cutting off any hope of salvation for himself and the church.

Abraham's Faith in Action

- **FIRST** it is important that we are told, "he had **received** the promises". See v. 13. These promises were REAL and the foundation of Abraham's faith.
 - The "promises" were **THE WORD OF GOD!**
- Abraham did not confer with Sarah – he already knew the will of God.
- Abraham did not dispute with God over seemingly contradictions.
- Abraham did not delay – see Genesis 22:3.
- Abraham OBEYED!
 - In going!
 - In offering up his son! Abraham's obedience was already in his heart! To Abraham Isaac was already DEAD!
 - God judges the heart! (1 Samuel 16:7; Jeremiah 17:10; Revelation 2:23)
- Despite the difficulties, the seemingly contradiction, the inability to fully understand everything – Abraham obeyed. He did not learn on his own understanding. Proverbs 3:5.
- Abraham TRUSTED God to do what was RIGHT. It was his to simply obey!
 - Abraham ACKNOWLEDGED God! See Proverbs 3:6.
- Abraham's FAITH:
 - (Hebrews 11:19) "accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead . . ."
 - (Genesis 22:5) "And Abraham said to his young men, 'Stay here with the donkey; *the lad and I will go yonder and worship and **we** will come back to you.*"
 - (Genesis 22:8) "God will provide Himself a lamb . . ."

Reward for Abraham's Faith (Obedience)

- ① The trial was removed – he received **back** Isaac.



- ② He received the approval of the LORD – “now I know that thou fearest God”
 - Obedience brings PEACE.
- ③ He had a clearer view of Christ – see John 8:56.
 - The more we obey the more clearly will we “see” Christ.
- ④ He received a fuller revelation of God – he now knew God as “Jehovah-Jireh” (God will provide or God the Provider).
 - The more we obey the better we will understand. See John 7:16-17.
- ⑤ God confirmed the covenant – God gave him for assurance as a result of his obedience.