

# **Building Solid Foundations through Abraham the Father of our Faith**

**Hebrews 11:8-16**

**The Requirements of Faith**

**Hebrews 11:8-12** *By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.*

*By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude— innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.*

**Abraham was a nomad who grew up in an  
unbelieving and idolatrous society**

**Abraham is an Old Testament example of foundational faith. Abraham demonstrated his faith through his actions:**

- (1) left his old way of life and lived a new way of life (11:8)
- (2) became a father in his old age (11:11)
- (3) willing to obey God's command to sacrifice his only son (11:17)

**Faith is our willingness to enter into new territory; Faith is willing to NOT enter new territory!**

**Faith is about the trust and willingness to listen, understand and follow the WILL of the LORD!**

## Faith requires listening and understanding

**Hebrews 11:8** *It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going.*

We need to learn that the "**point of departure**" is not as important as is the "**point of ready-obedience**"

**2 Corinthians 5:14-18** *Whatever we do, it is because Christ's love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for everyone, we also believe that we have all died to the old life we used to live. He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live to please themselves. Instead, they will live to please Christ, who died and was raised for them.*

*So we have stopped evaluating others by what the world thinks about them. Once I mistakenly thought of Christ that way, as though he were merely a human being. How differently I think about him now! What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun! All this newness of life is from God, who brought us back to himself through what Christ did.*

**A life of faith often starts with our willingness to leave our current place of sinfulness (where we live) and walk as HIS Talidim, Follower, or Disciple and live in a new place of obedience with Him.**

**Often giving up our old ways, patterns, and behaviors is one of the greatest obstacles and challenges we face in our on-going commitment to Christ (See Romans 7).**

## Faith always requires patience

**Hebrews 11:9-10** *By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; **for he waited** for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.*

**As much as Abraham was willing to go he also had to be willing to wait.**

**The secret of Abraham's patience was that he trusted in what was the ultimate place, promise which would be fulfilled, the Promised Land that was waiting for him!**

**John 14:1-4** *Don't be troubled. You trust God, now trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's home, and I am going to prepare a place for you. If this were not so, I would tell you plainly. When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.*

## Faith requires us to be stretched

**Hebrews 11:11-12** *It was by faith that Sarah together with Abraham was able to have a child, even though they were too old and Sarah was barren. Abraham believed that God would keep his promise. And so a whole nation came from this one man, Abraham, who was too old to have any children — a nation with so many people that, like the stars of the sky and the sand on the seashore, there is no way to count them.*

**Mature faith is not presumptuous!**

**Faith is willing to *do what others might believe to be improbable, impractical or impossible!***

**When we walk as a man or woman of faith we can come to times when we have nothing left but God, and then we will learn that God is enough!**

**Hebrews 11:13-16** *These men of faith I have mentioned died without ever receiving all that God had promised them; but they saw it all awaiting them on ahead and were glad, for they agreed that this earth was not their real home but that they were just strangers visiting down here. **And quite obviously when they talked like that, they were looking forward to their real home in heaven.** If they had wanted to, they could have gone back to the good things of this world. But they didn't want to. **They were living for heaven.** And now God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has made a heavenly city for them.*

**Are you living for heaven or earth?**  
**The answer to this question will change your life!**