

The Requirements of Faith

Building Solid Foundations through Abraham the Father of our Faith Hebrews 11: 8-16

Hebrews 11: 8-16 8 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. 9 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; 10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God, 11 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. 12 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.

13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. 15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

God called Abraham out of an idolatrous society to a place where God would plant him and raise up a new nation. What are some things Abraham had to leave behind when he left his homeland with his wife and nephew?

In verses 8 and 9, how did Abraham show his faith by his actions?

According to verse 10, what enabled Abraham to leave his homeland and family, and follow God to a strange place?

How does faith in God's future promises affect you in your walk with Jesus?

Every believer in Jesus has to trust and wait a lifetime to receive the miracle of the heavenly city prepared for us. If we can trust Him for that, we can trust Him for our life needs, right?

In verses 11-12, how does Abraham and Sarah's faith in God's promise lead to a miracle? Share a time when you believed God and the result was a miracle answer to prayer.

Was the timing of the answer the same or different from what you expected?

Faith always requires **trusting** God and often requires **patience** to keep trusting while we wait.

2 Corinthians 5: 17-20 ...if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

A life of faith starts with our willingness to leave our current place of sinfulness and walk as His followers, in obedience to Him. If you have given your life to Christ and received His forgiveness, you are a new person. What are some of the differences you see in your life since you received Christ?

Have the old ways, patterns, and behaviors that do not honor Him gone away instantly or more gradually?

Abraham and Sarah's faith was really stretched to believe that God would build a nation through their child when they both were clearly past the childbearing age. Share a time when God really stretched your faith or the faith of someone you know, or a faith-stretching experience you are going through right now.

Faith requires **listening** and **understanding**, and knowing God's Word, so we don't get outside of God's will.

It takes as much faith to **stay** if that is God's leading as it does to **move out** into new territory.

Faith is willing to do what others might believe to be improbable, impractical, or impossible. When we have **nothing left** but **God**, we learn that **God** is **enough**.

The answer to this question will determine whether you are living by faith. Are you living for heaven or earth?