

Hebrews 11.8-12

Father of our Faith

Hebrews 11 – “FAITH Chapter:” v. 1 faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen

NOT Definition of Faith > DISPLAY of Faith in People’s Lives

WHAT is FAITH?? – Someone says, “I wish I had YOUR Faith!”

Like saying wish I had your EMPTY Paper Cup that you just USED

EVERYONE has Faith – Allah, Buddha, Scientology, ATHEISM, SELF!

= Ultimate Value | Highest Priority | Guiding Principle | Reason to Live

What makes Faith Strong? When IN Something Strong, Valuable
Million \$ Bank > **Faith** in Debit Card / \$0 bank: Cheap Plastic Card

Value of Biblical Faith – Truth of BIBLE, Sovereign/Saving GOD

Apostle Paul: “If X is NOT Risen we are FOOLS!”

Faith is KEY to UNLOCK the Door to ETERNAL LIFE

Faith is CHANNEL thru which God’s BLESSINGS Flow

Faith is CUP into which God POURS His Saving GRACE

“Faith is a busy little thing!” Martin Luther

Biblical Faith: RESPONSE of WHOLE Being to God & HIS PROVIDENCES

Xtians w Faith: Average, Normal, Sinners HAVE Almighty, Holy, God

Abe Greatest Example of Faith in Bible /Bio 100 yrs–age 70/175 / Scripture 13 chs. / Gen 12-25

FATHER of FAITH for JEWS, MUSLIMS, and CHRISTIANS

Many Xtians FOCUSED on Tiny Nation of ISRAEL > God sees World

GOD made him the father of all who believe without being circumcised ...and to make him the father of the circumcised... promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be **heir of the world** Romans 4.11-13

1. Left > Convinced by the Promise

v. 8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

We may IMAGINE Abe a PRIMITIVE, Caveman > lived in TENTS! > NOT the Case

“Ur of the Chaldeans was one of the most cultured and developed cities of that time, and also a large shopping center with its seaports. Its inhabitants possessed a cuneiform writing and a strong mathematical background.”
Virtual Biblical Museum

Called to LEAVE Kohala 4 KAU Desert: or Steppe of KAZAKHSTAN

NOT Easy WALK Away from COMFORT > KNOWN to UNKNOWN

GO > CONVINCED worthy Goal, Higher Purpose, You & Loved Ones

Abe SAVED by Grace thru FAITH – Abraham believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness. Genesis 15.6 Quoted 3 X’s in NT

Abe was SAVED because God SOUGHT him > TRUE of ALL Believers

NOT called to PARK BRAIN at DOOR when Step into the CHURCH

Many Famous INTELLECTUALS > Committed Christians / HAVE Facts

“Faith is REASONING Trust” John Stott

Josh McDowell wrote “Evidence that DEMANDS a VERDICT”

EMPTY TOMB of Crucified Jesus INCONVENIENT Truth for World

SOME > Never Died, Body Stolen, Nailed wrong Guy, Wrong Tomb

OTHERS > FAITH in BIBLE as Reliable, Accurate, Trustworthy

Lord to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing... in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Genesis 12.1-3

Call SEPARATION > HOLINESS means Separation, Different, Unique

NOT like FAMILY & FRIENDS > Another god, Direction, Purpose

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. 1 John 2.15-17

Way to REACH World / Family, Friends Not Yet Believe – BE DIFFERENT

YOU are God’s Ambassador in Family, School, Business, Neighborhood

Blessing thru Abe > EVERY Family on Earth > PROMISE ‘SON’ Jesus

2. Lived > Counted the Price

v. 9 By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise.

Once Abe BELONGED to God > NO Longer FIT IN with the WORLD

1983 >> LUGBARA / Uganda – Most kids not seen Whites > 8 yrs AMIN

Sweet Dayna > to Lugbara kids “Mi Ru Adi?” – What is your NAME!

RUN Away SCREAMING > Parents told “if BAD white people eat you!”

Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ Philip 3.20

Already/Not Yet Nature of Faith – POSSESS Promises, Not yet Fulfilled

CITIZENS in Kingdom NOW – NOT Yet got our BUNK Assignment

God Deals w/ us thru PROMISES > #1. Lift Eyes beyond Circumstances

Life of FAITH – Often UNFULFILLED Hopes, DISAPPOINTMENTS

SINGLE wanna be Married – Married want Kids
 Married wish were SINGLE – PARENTS wish kids GROW Up & Leave
 GOD Not GENIE, RUB for Every WISH!/ Faith = Endurance, Discipline

God Saves us from OURSELVES > NOT Answer ALL our PRAYERS

We ask for HEALTH & WEALTH – God wants to give ETERNAL Life

God Deals w/ us thru PROMISES > #2. God us Calling us on JOURNEY

FATHER of Faith Abraham was MIGRANT – No LASTING City

“For the present form of this world is passing away” 1 Corinthians 7.31

Abe 70 > Called by God to leave HOME in UR of Chaldeans

75 > Left HARAN for CANAAN

86 > Worked God’s Plan for Him > Had ISHMAEL with HAGAR

99 > God REBRANDED Abraham – Promised Son of Laughter ISAAC

100 > Son of PROMISE / Isaac Born > Abe, Sarah, God laughed w/ JOY

“Time is nothing to God, let it be nothing to you. God is worth waiting for
 ...Wait in obedience as a servant, in hope as an heir, in expectation as a believer”
 Charles Spurgeon

3. Longed > Crying out for Permanence

v. 10 For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

Abe LOOKED Out Flap of his Tents @ DIFFERENT Cities as Journeyed

Probably YEARNED for Permanence, Peace, and PIT LATRINES

NATURAL Desire to SETTLE Down Comfortable HERE on Earth

Was CHOSEN by God, but NOT Fit in Here > Strange in Every Way

Reason why SECULAR History has LITTLE Trace of Abraham

Not Mighty King - Famous Entertainer - Villainous Rogue

World NOT Interested w/ Abe Represented > God, Covenant, Kingdom

Christian KNOWS we Never FULLY Settle Here – Even HAWAII!!

Deposit in the Distance / Focused on Inheritance / Playing the Long Game

LIVE in ZERO Dollars Down Generation > No Payment, You Possess It!

DRIVE NEW Car Home – WATCH Big Screen TV TONIGHT – NO \$\$

Even Better: Take BIG TV, Watch All games to Super Bowl – Return It!

Biblical Faith more like LAY-AWAY – ITEM Stays in Store – Till PAID!

Faith-filled Believer PAYS Now and RECEIVES Later > True HOPE

Important thing Not What we LIVE IN but what we LOOK FOR!

Being PILGRIM is DIFFICULT – Easy be Resentful, Impatient, Jealous

Our most PRICELESS Possessions are PROMISES > Faithful, TRUE

“Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great” Genesis 15.1

CALL to Faith is CALL to FAITHFULNESS – Following Faithful GOD

May live in TENTS but walking to REAL HOME in God’s CITY!

Cities of CANAAN >> Earthly Foundations | God’s City Eternal Foundation

4. Loved > Committed to the Princess

v. 11,12 By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

SARAH > Enters picture as Child-Bearer > MORE than That > PROMISE

CALL to Abe – “We’re Moving!” “Where?” “NO IDEA!” “No, way!”

Sarah said “Count me IN” / Text: Focus on Abe – Abe had LIFE Partner

Believer’s LIFE – RARELY Rise Higher than FAITH of their SPOUSE

Marriage ROCKY: Infidelity, 2 X’s My SISTA! – Hard 2 Be Restored

NOT Knowing Where Going – GOOD! – Lots of BAD Things Happen

Nothing happened that DID NOT Work for God’s Glory & Our GOOD

God can MAKE PEOPLE NEW – HEAL Marriage, Family, Kids, Grands

NAME Abram “Great Father” or “father of many”

The Lord to Abram: “To your offspring I will give this land.” Genesis 12.7

DECADES Passed – No Child > WEALTHY Man in Oriental Culture

Dozens, Hundreds, Thousands X’s Question “How many kids you have?”

HEARD the SNICKERS – No Kids!?! – Father of MANY! Yeah, Right!

Abe & Sarah tried FULFILL God’s PURPOSE by their PLAN & POWER

Sarah got TIRED of Waiting > Sent slave HAGAR to Abe’s TENT

Seemed like ANSWER to Prayer! Launched Arab / Israeli CONFLICT!

THINK Sometimes God NEEDS our HELP to Get Things DONE
 Have SEX w/ Boyfriend so he'll MARRY U/ He's Bye, Bye then Baby
 COOK the Books to END the Year in the BLACK
 Churches do More MARKETING than Ministry > Tickle Itching Ears

ABE Circles back Those who KNOW his NAME
 Me = Father of MANY! /God Super-Sized NAME! Abraham
 Now: Father of MULTITUDE! / No DOUBT Crazy!

PROMISE of God Best Received thru Promise KEEPING: God & Spouse
 Parents that CRAZY to Follow Jesus > 1981 got job Ass't Pastor in HILO
 Married HAWAIIAN Princess, Year LATER moved War-Zone UGANDA

Dayna & both Decided NOT Marry UNLESS > Ministry Partner for Life

Xtian: Choose IF should Marry? / How will they help SERVE God Better?

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. Colossians 3.1-3

“you are pilgrims and strangers; so do not think to satisfy yourselves here...So let us not be troubled to see men of great wealth...we are only lodging here for a night. If you were to live a hundred years, in comparison to eternity it is not as much as a night” Jeremiah Burroughs

Gen 17: Abe “You and SARAH will have a SON” > She'll be PRINCESS

God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.” Genesis 17.15,16

90 yr old WOMAN > MOTHER of a NATION > Birth Son of PROMISE
 NOT Surprising that SHE Laughed > Impossible, Ridiculous > Only GOD

When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless...my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. Genesis 17.1-6

PROMISE of Covenant of GRACE birthed by Barren, Elderly Woman

Fulfillment of Covenant of Grace birthed by Young VIRGIN Girl

GOD of Promise > Mary said “With God NOTHING is IMPOSSIBLE!”

When we see KING JESUS we will say, like the Queen of SHEEBA,
 “The half was not told me” 1 Kings 10.7

God took APOSTLE John to Great, High Mountain

He carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city
 Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God Revelation 21.10

That’s YOUR POSSESSION if your FAITH is in Lord Jesus Christ
 Never READ ‘Pilgrim’s Progress’ by John Bunyan make Goal in 2023

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined,
 what God has prepared for those who love him”— these things God has revealed to us through
 the Spirit. 1 Corinthians 2.9,10

Hebrews 11.⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to
 receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he went
 to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with
 him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose
 designer and builder is God. ¹¹By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she
 was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one
 man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as
 many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.