

FAITH AND OBEDIENCE

Hebrews 11:8-22

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KEY SENTENCE...

Faith is the God-given dynamic overcoming power in the life of a believer that propels him confidently forward into God's promises.

1. True Faith **RECOGNIZES** and **BELIEVES**

The **first 4 words** from today's passage carry the sum of my message this morning... **BY FAITH ABRAHAM OBEYED...**

The fuel of the Christian life is FAITH. Without, we can't possibly even please God.

Faith – In the GREEK, the word here is **PISTIV**. It carries the thought of conviction – with trust and a holy fervor. It is the deepest of **confidence**. It involves a dynamic combination of: a). Recognition and worship of the one **in whom** faith is placed (i.e. - Paul "knew in whom he believed"...) and b). the fact that it is not a static, or inactive word! Faith gives us the **vibrant resulting power** and **drive** to respond to God.

Faith drives our works. And similarly, our works reveal our faith.

Obedience – Here, the GREEK is the word **is HUPAKOOUO**. It means to listen, to hearken.

Abraham trusted – even when he didn't see the answer with his own eyes. In fact, most of those in Hebrews 11 are in that category. They saw from afar, and never experienced the promise fulfilled that we now enjoy in the Gospel. But they knew it was coming. And even in its absence, they believed in the promise – and acted accordingly. That, my friends, is faith.

The natural outcome of faith **in action**. Abraham had faith... he heard the knock of God at his heart's door – and he answered. That answer – is equal to obedience!

Obedience is the outworking of our faith – and really, a synonymous term with WORKS. When we obey – we are doing a work of God!

2. True Faith allows the believers to overcome:

- a) The **unknown**. Abraham left home for a land "he knew not of..."

- b) The **unfamiliar**. Abraham willingly left the familiar surrounds of his life and embraced that which was unfamiliar.
- c) The **present** – in favor of the future.
- d) The **current life limitations**. Sarah conceived – powered by faith. Important to note that she wasn't "pinged" by her laughter – she was still credited as having faith!

3. True Faith will take us to our HOME.

It is important to see that Abraham, Sarah and the others in this "Hall of Faith" saw these promises from afar, and died waiting on them.

How? Because the man of faith sees himself as a pilgrim, an alien, on his path to his TRUE home.

For Abraham, Ur of Chaldeans was not his home. Neither was Haran. And, for that matter, the promise of Canaan land was not to be fulfilled in this life. And it won't be for ANY of us!

4. True Faith Looks Forward – and won't give in to looking back.

Abraham lived out his life in faith – never desiring to return to Ur. Why? How? His eyes were on "the city" – the heavenly city of God.

5. True Faith will endure through all generations.

Abraham was the "father of faith" – and the prophetic nature of such faith is such that it will carry itself through his life, and the life of his posterity.

CLOSING

This is how faith works. We believe in God. We have great confidence in His promise. We respond to Him, answering Him. And in so doing, we obey.

Obedience to God is only possible by faith. And, Faith that is true will bear the fruit of obedience.