

Matchless part 24

Hebrews 11:8-16

The Title Of The Message: “Faith and Our Heavenly Hope”

The Key Word: Faith

The Thought:

The Breakdown:

Verses 8-10 The Faith Of Abraham

Verses 11-12 The Faith Of Sarah

Verses 13-16 Our Heavenly Hope

Verses 8-10 The Faith Of Abraham

Hebrews 11:8 NKJV - 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... Earlier in the chapter we noted that without faith it is impossible to please God, we also noted that faith is the substance of things hoped for, and the evidence of things not seen. This isn't blind faith, but an intelligent decision made because we believe in Jesus.

Abraham obeyed... Notice now that Paul uses Abraham as an example of faith, in Genesis 12:1 we find the command to Abraham **Genesis 12:1 (NKJV)** **Now the Lord had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, From your family And from your father’s house, To a land that I will show you.**

There comes a point in everyones life that we must make a choice to believe and follow Jesus, by believing in our hearts and confessing with our mouths that Jesus is our Lord, or we can reject what God has said in favor of living for ourselves and doing what the world says is right.

Romans 10:9–10 (NKJV) 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

For Abraham he came to this crossroads to believe or to reject, he received the command, “to get out of his country, to get out of his family, to get out from his fathers house and go to a land that he would be shown” this is cross point of his life and even though he doesn’t know it, his decision will affect the future of the world. Because Abraham had faith he obeyed, and is an example to all Christians today that real faith produces obedience, that produces real tangible works, Faith is never alone but is always accompanied by obedience, proving what James has said, that faith without works is dead. Faith by its nature brings us to life, we don’t do works to gain faith, but our works are a by-product of that faith.

James 2:26 (NKJV) For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Faith and obedience work together to produce works, obedience that is acceptable to God, comes from a heart that believes God is not a liar, that comes from the Spirit teaching us of the grace, truth and love that come from Jesus.

All of us come to that point on a daily basis to obey or not to, faith is interesting in that it needs to be exorcised, faith produces obedience and obedience strengthens our faith.

When you think about it when we place our faith in Jesus what we are actually doing is giving Jesus the right to command obedience to Him in everything in our lives. He has after all has a greater interest in us, although He created everything from dirt to angels, He came and redeemed us not the planets, not earth, sorry environmentalist, not animals sorry PETA, and not angels, sorry Michael and Gabriel, but He came for mankind!

That being said we should know and understand that there is nothing minor in the Lords call to us, and we are to operate in faith in everything that we do, for some he has called us to operate behind the scenes while he has called others to be at the forefront, we need to remember that we are a chosen and redeemed among mankind, called out from the rest of the world, so what does that mean? That means when it seems like no one else hears the call, we must hear the call, and when it seems as though no one else will obey, we will be the ones to joyfully obey. Obedience comes out of faith, which is powerful in our witness to others, because it shows the world that true believers, believe in God beyond our belief in everything else, and anything else.

And he went out... Notice that this kind of faith, that is genuine faith, causes an immediate response to the command of God, there is no delaying, if God has commanded us, we are to do just what He has said, and we should remember that delayed obedience is still disobedience.

Our obedience has to be practical as well, our obedience isn't a bunch of talk, but actual, our Christianity should be one of hands and feet. When we walk with God and do the work of God, we can glorify God in where we go and in what we do, and we will go above and beyond those who only talk about and spiritualize obedience.

Which he would receive as an inheritance... This kind of faith also produces an obedience that patiently and confidently waits for the reward, notice that Abraham left for a future inheritance, imagine how many people would be obedient if they got paid immediately, or received their rewards right now! Even wicked people obey God when it

benefits them, but people who walk with God, will be obedient even when it seems there is no benefit to them.

Not knowing where he was going... Abraham's faith was directly tied to his obedience, 1st we should note that Abraham shows the Christian what he must give up, "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house" imagine hearing that as an unbeliever and then putting your faith in a voice? Think about what Abraham had to leave, and what his family must have thought about him! I'm reminded of what Jesus said in...

Matthew 10:37–38 (NKJV) 37 He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

Abraham did all this without seeing anything just hearing the voice of God, he believed that what he said is true, what ashamed that we have the very word of God in print we have secular history that speaks of Christ existence but we still don't believe!

John 20:29 (NKJV) Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Charles Spurgeon has this insight... **The way of obedience is a life of the highest honour. By faith we yield our intelligence to the highest intelligence: we are led, guided, directed; and we follow where our Lord has gone. -Charles Spurgeon**

Three lessons we can learn from Abrahams faith and obedience

1st Abraham gave up the world and endured suffering.

2nd Abraham lived on the hope of a better future.

3rd Abraham did all of this by faith.

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

By faith he dwelt in the land... How is it that he was able to live like this? To have this faith this obedience this endurance to set aside the current world to have this hope, he had to come to the understanding that he was no longer of this world, he considered himself a nomad, a traveler through this world, even though he had the promise of the inheritance he was looking for that which was better, better built, and instead of setting down roots he waited for that city that had a solid foundation that was built by God. Abraham is the example of what we must do, because our hope isn't here on this earth but it is in heaven, and so we need to have a light touch on the material things of this earth. I'm reminded of Pastor Don McClure his testimony is that he has always had a light touch on the things of this earth, so that he could be ready at a moment's notice to go and minister to broken, abused and failing churches, and he has been that man, now I find myself wondering who will take over what he did? Are you ready to leave behind all that is in the world to go and receive your inheritance or are you tied to this world?

What a privilege we have, in all of this we ought to remember that God has chosen us, not because we are something special, but He has chosen us because He wants to spend time with us, He wants to bless us, He wants to glorify His name through us.

1 Corinthians 1:26–31 (NKJV) 26 For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. 27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the base

things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence. 30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—31 that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.”

Faith and obedience anchors us in Christ, I guess the question we should really ask ourselves is are we anchored in Jesus who is sitting on the throne in heaven or are we anchored to this world that is going to burn in the end.

Verses 11-12 The Faith Of Sarah

Hebrews 11:11 NKJV - 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.

By faith Sarah... This is interesting as Paul now point to Sarah as a person of great faith, I say interesting because when the Lord came and told Abraham that Sarah would have a son she laughed to herself and thought after we are so old now are we going to enjoy sex again? She was the same one who came out with the bright idea of having a son through a surrogate her handmaiden Hagar, this though was rejected by God because He already had a plan and their plan was inferior to His. At this time Abraham was 100 and she was 90, that part of their lives must have gone to the way side long before, and even if it had not, she was still too old to have a child! But when she was called on it she denied it! But maybe that's what it took to ignite her faith, I don't blame her for having a lack of faith, because we rely on our natural senses so much that these things seem impossible or not likely that God would do it. It's not that we don't believe but more that we lack the faith that God would do it for us, there is doubt lingering, and we all become like that father who told Jesus, “Lord I believe, but help me in my unbelief.” Like Sarah we all, have experienced our igniters of faith, we've been confronted, for some its a worship song, for others a message on the

radio, and for others it's just being confronted with the truth from a family member, a friend or even a stranger.

God did have a sense of humor though because Sarah laughed they wound up naming their child Isaac and his name means laughter! What a reminder!

Hebrews 11:12 NKJV - 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.

Therefore from one man... Because of their faith God through that one boy fulfills His promise to make Abraham and his family as numerous as the sand of the sea or the stars of the sky. And notice even though Abraham was as good as dead!

Sometimes I wonder what would have happened if Abraham had not had obeyed or if Sarah had not had faith to receive the promise but then I find that that is waste of time because it did happen! And this should be a reminder that God is not a liar but is a keeper of His promises. There are so many running around hindered because they have not judged God to be faithful, that when He says He forgives that He means it they know intellectually that He forgives but they have a hard time receiving that forgiveness, Sarah laughed in doubt but when confronted, she reconsidered and then Judged God to be true and received the promise that God would strengthen her to be able to have a child even in her old age, even though she never had a child before, and the same is true for all of us God keeps His promise oof forgiveness all we have to do is receive that forgiveness.

Verses 13-16 Our Heavenly Hope

Hebrews 11:13 NKJV - 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.

These all died in faith... Notice that everyone from Abraham to Malachi died without receiving the promise of the Messiah, but because they saw these promises coming they were confident that God would do what He said, and so they embraced them, and confessed that they were strayers and pilgrims on this earth. Having a light touch on the material things of this earth doesn't mean we can't own homes, or cars, or businesses or provide an financial inheritance for our children it just means that we know that if God wants to liquidate those things for His purposes He can, because we know He is the One we trust in and follow, and can provide even more than we need. What stands out the most to me is that these people all died in faith and yet had not received the promises of the Messiah, of the cross, of the resurrection, yet they endured, how much more should we endure because we have received all of those things!

I like what David Guzik points out... **Faith is very difficult when we live as “practical atheists.” This describes someone who may have a theoretical belief in God, but their belief doesn't matter in what they do from day to day. When we remember there is a spiritual reality—a heavenly home that is our real home—faith is much easier. -Pastor David Guzik**

Hebrews 11:14 NKJV - For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland.

For those who say... Because we have a heavenly hope something much better than the world can offer, we like those of the past can also declare that we are seeking a homeland that only God can provide, the reason we millennials and the gen. z generations getting away from owning homes and purchasing tiny homes, seeking a simpler life, are actually longing for heaven, they are longing for a homeland only Jesus can give them.

Hebrews 11:15-16 NKJV - And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 NKJV - 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.

And truly if they had... Notice that once they left all they knew and had come out of that country they didn't think about it again, faith keeps us focused on the future homeland not on what we have left behind, the greatest problem a person can have is when they look back to the good old days and forget that the world held them from faith, made them doubt, tried to distract them with riches, drugs, sex, drunkenness, parties, power, and prestige, going back thinking that the vomit is so good! We must be like our examples and be willing to burn the bridges that lead back to the world, and be willing to see plainly that those time were not good but dangerous for our souls! We must have a desire to have that which is better, that heavenly country that God has provided for all who place their faith in Him.

Application:

- 1. Faith is always accompanied by obedience.**
- 2. Faith is strengthened by obedience**
- 3. Faith forces us to burn our bridges behind us as we look forward to a better world.**