

HIGHER AIM WITH DR. CURT DODD

The Risk Of Faith

Heroes Of The Faith | Part 3 | Hebrews 11:8-16; Genesis 12:1-4

INTRODUCTION

When you got in your car this morning, you took a risk. You trusted that you would arrive safely, but there were no guarantees. Life is full of risks. We are always looking for a sure thing, but in this world, nothing is certain except for the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. This is why God calls us to live a life that goes beyond what we can see and control. It is a life of faith.

The story of Abraham, the father of faith, shows us that God can use imperfect people to do extraordinary things. Abraham's journey was not one of flawless obedience, but of learning to take one step of faith after another. His story is our story, showing that God can make any of us men and women of real faith. This journey, however, always involves risk. If there is no risk, there is no faith. Let's explore what this life of faith truly involves by looking at the life of Abraham.

KEY POINTS

1. Faith Requires Leaving What Is Comfortable

The first step in Abraham's journey of faith was an instruction from God to leave. He was called to leave his country, his people, his father's household, and everything that gave him security and identity. This was not an easy command. It meant disconnecting from his past and stepping into a future he could not see. But if God calls you to cut ties with your comfortable past, it is always to position you for the blessing He has in your future. Faith begins when we are willing to let go of what we know and trust the One who calls us.

2. Faith Requires Giving What Is Precious

Abraham's faith was tested not only by what he was asked to leave, but by what he was asked to give. He learned to give a tenth of all he had, establishing a principle of trusting God with his finances. More profoundly, he was asked to offer his own son, Isaac, the very child God had miraculously promised. In his willingness to lay Isaac on the altar, Abraham demonstrated that his ultimate trust was in God's character. He believed God could raise his son from the dead if necessary. Faith calls us to take our hands off our most precious possessions, even our families, and trust them completely to God, believing He will provide.

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3. Faith Requires Waiting When It Is Difficult

Abraham and the other heroes of faith "were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance." Their lives were marked by waiting. After God makes a promise, there is often a long period of waiting for its fulfillment. This is where faith is forged. Whether you are waiting for physical healing, business success, or a restored relationship, the time of waiting is not wasted. It is in this uncomfortable space that God does His deepest work in us, growing our character and deepening our trust in Him.

4. Faith Requires Acting On What God Declares

The Bible says that "Abraham believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness." At its core, faith is simply taking God at His Word and acting on it, even when you do not see it, feel it, or fully understand it. The Christian life is a walk of faith, not of sight. Just as we trust Christ for salvation, which we cannot see, we are called to trust His Word for our daily lives. Faith is choosing to stand on what God says is true, regardless of our circumstances, our feelings, or our limited understanding.

The life of Abraham teaches us that faith is not a feeling; it is a series of choices. It is a journey that involves leaving, giving, waiting, and acting. God is not asking for perfection. He is looking for a heart that is willing to trust Him, even when it is costly and confusing.

This is the great risk of faith: letting go of our own plans to embrace God's. It means laying our security, our finances, and our families on the altar and backing away, trusting that God will supply in His timing and for His glory. What is God asking you to do today? Perhaps He is calling you to leave a source of false security, to give sacrificially, to wait patiently through a trial, or to simply act on a promise from His Word. Whatever the next step is, you can take it with confidence, knowing that God is faithful. By modeling this quiet, steady obedience, you create a powerful legacy, showing the next generation that Christ is worth a lifetime of trust.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What area of comfort or security might God be calling you to release in order to follow Him more fully?
2. In what part of your life (family, finances, future) is it most difficult for you to trust God's timing and provision over your own plans?
3. What is one specific promise in God's Word that you can choose to stand on and act upon this week, even if you do not see the outcome yet?
