

THE POWER OF FAITH (PART 2)

Hebrews 11:7-19

OUR FAITH LEADS US TO DO THINGS THAT MAKE NO SENSE TO OTHERS

- “By faith Noah, after he was warned about what was not yet seen and motivated by godly fear, built an ark to deliver his family. By faith he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.” (Hebrews 11:7)
- In spite of opposition and criticism, the best place to be is in the center of God’s will doing what God has told us to do.

OUR FAITH IS DEMONSTRATED THROUGH ONGOING OBEDIENCE TO GOD

- “By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed and set out for a place that he was going to receive as an inheritance.” (Hebrews 11:8)
- “‘Brothers and fathers,’ he replied, ‘listen: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he settled in Haran, 3 and said to him: **Leave your country and relatives, and come to the land that I will show you.**’” (Acts 7:2-3)
- A true understanding of who God is and what He has done for us should drive us to live our lives in obedience to God’s word.

OUR FAITH REMINDS US OF OUR ETERNAL HOME

- “By faith he stayed as a foreigner in the land of promise, living in tents as did Isaac and Jacob, coheirs of the same promise. 10 For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God... These all died in faith, although they had not received the things that were promised. But they saw them from a distance, greeted them, and confessed that they were foreigners and temporary residents on the earth. 14 Now those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. 15 If they were thinking about where they came from, they would have had an opportunity to return. 16 But they now desire a better place—a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not

ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.” (Hebrews 11:9, 13-16)

- We can endure the trials, struggles, and disappointments of this life when we understand that we are simply passing through on our way to our permanent home in glory!
- “Therefore, we ourselves boast about you among God’s churches—about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and afflictions that you are enduring.” (1 Thessalonians 1:4)

OUR FAITH IMPACTS THE LIVES OF OTHERS

- “By faith even Sarah herself, when she was unable to have children, received power to conceive offspring, even though she was past the age, since she considered that the one who had promised was faithful. 12 Therefore, from one man—in fact, from one as good as dead—came offspring as numerous as the stars of the sky and as innumerable as the grains of sand along the seashore.” (Hebrews 11:11-12)
- “As it is written: **I have made you the father of many nations**—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, the one who gives life to the dead and calls things into existence that do not exist. 18 He believed, hoping against hope, so that he became **the father of many nations** according to what had been spoken: **So will your descendants be.** 19 He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body to be already dead (since he was about a hundred years old) and also the deadness of Sarah’s womb. 20 He did not waver in unbelief at God’s promise but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, 21 because he was fully convinced that what God had promised, He was also able to do. 22 Therefore, **it was credited to him for righteousness.** 23 Now **it was credited to him** was not written for Abraham alone, 24 but also for us. It will be credited to us who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. 25 He was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.” (Romans 4:17-25)
- God desires to use us to accomplish His divine plans in this world, and when we trust in Him we will see His hand at work in the lives of others as well.

OUR OBEDIENCE IS DRIVEN BY OUR BELIEF IN GOD'S POWER

- *“By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac. He received the promises and yet he was offering his one and only son, 18 the one to whom it had been said, **Your offspring will be traced through Isaac.** 19 He considered God to be able even to raise someone from the dead; therefore, he received him back, figuratively speaking.” (Hebrews 11:17-19)*
- **God's power is not limited by our faith, but our faith is often the key to witnessing the power of God on display.**

**** CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION ON BACK****

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION

Ice Breaker: Have you ever felt led by God to do something others didn't understand? How did you respond?

Observation

- What specific actions did Noah and Abraham take by faith according to Hebrews 11:7–19?
- How does verse 13 describe the faith of those who never received the promises in their lifetime?
- What does Hebrews 11:17–19 reveal about Abraham's understanding of God's power?
- According to verses 10 and 16, what were Abraham and others ultimately looking forward to?

Understanding

- What fears or obstacles tend to keep us from obeying God when His leading doesn't make logical sense?
- What does it look like in your life to obey God before knowing all the details?
- In what areas are you currently struggling to keep walking in obedience? What truth about God do you need to hold on to in that area?
- How does keeping an eternal perspective change the way you live today?
- Who has your faith influenced—either positively or negatively? Are you trusting God not just for your own life, but also for what He wants to do through you in others' lives?
- How does Abraham's willingness to sacrifice Isaac challenge your view of obedience and trust?

Loving Outward:

- Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
- Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
- Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?