

Christ Above all else

Hebrews 11:8-19

- We begin our study of faith here in **CH 11** by looking at the **description of faith**, and the **demonstration of faith**. Abel, Enoch, and Noah, three men who's faith led them to **Worship The Lord, Walk with The Lord**, and **Work for The Lord**, modeling for us exactly what **10:38** means when it says "**the just shall live by faith**" for despite all odds, persecution, ridicule, circumstance or situation, they trusted The Lord.

V8-19

- **V8** now we see Abraham listed, and like Abel, Enoch, and Noah, his faith caused him to exhibit a character trait needed to trust The Lord in every circumstance and that is patience. Where Abel demonstrated Worship, Enoch Walking, Noah Working, Abraham demonstrates Waiting, for Abraham was called to go out but he wasn't told where he would end up, he just had to trust that God would guide him.
- **Josh 24:2** that Abraham didn't start out a believer, his family was from the other side of the Euphrates River a place called Ur of the Chaldeans located in Southern Mesopotamia, in what is now called Southern Iraq, it's where the Babylonians came from who eventually conquered Judah and Jerusalem. That meant Abraham and his family were idolatrous gentiles like everyone else, it wasn't until God called him out, and he obeyed God, that God renamed and repurposed him to a Hebrew heritage.
- **Acts 7:2-4** Abraham's background mentioned again here in the NT, showing that he wasn't brought up a believer but an idolater which is why God called him out from his family and gave him another path one that would lead to a personal relationship with The True and Living God and away from the false gods > **Jam 2:23**-friend of God.
- **V9-10** Abraham once he was called left, lived in tents with his son and eventually grandson, he never got to where God promised to take him as that was for those who would come after him to experience, instead he was called to be a sojourner. A **fugitive** is someone who's running from home, a **Vagabond** is somebody who has no home, a **foreigner** is someone who's away from home, and a **sojourner** or **pilgrim** is someone who is going home, their just not there yet, that's you and me.

- Because they had no permanent home they lived in tents not houses; they looked forward to a better city, the one whose foundations, Builder and Maker is God. Abraham was seventy five when he left home with God's promise and he lived until he was a hundred and seventy five according to **Gen 25:7**.
- That means he waited one hundred years trusting that he would see God put the foundations together of fulfilling the promise He made to him one hundred years earlier, and then he passed that faith down to his son Isaac and grandson Jacob. **V11-12** by faith Sarah received strength to be able to conceive Isaac, but notice just like her husband Abraham she didn't start out that way > **Gen 18:9-15** says she laughed when she first heard that she would bear a child being ninety years of age.
- They were told twenty five years ago that Abraham would be the father of many nations so she thought at sixty five it was slim but a chance, now at ninety and Ishmael having been born that this was impossible so she laughs in unbelief thinking that opportunity has long past. But God spoke to her and she had a change of heart and believed that He Who made the promise was faithful to fulfill it.
- Now from one man "**Abraham**" a past idolater, unbeliever, one who was dead both spiritually and physically as she was ninety and he one hundred when they had Isaac, God produced an entire nation, as well as the Christian faith for he is called the father of us all in the faith > **Rom 4:16-17**, **Gal 3:6-9**, amazing!
- **V13-16** although Abraham and Sarah died before seeing the promises they still believed that God would bring them to pass. Despite the promises being afar off we see four important things about the promises > **1. Assured of them, 2. Embraced them, 3. Confessed them, 4. Willing to die for them.**
- Two things characterized Abraham and Sarah, they were wanderers and worshippers, Abraham we know is called the father of faith in **Gal 3:7**, but also women of faith are called the daughters of Sarah in **1Pet 3:6**. You too as you walk with God and study and apply His Word, less and less will you fit in with this world.
- **V17-19** so strong had Abraham's faith become that after waiting twenty five years to have Isaac, when Isaac had become a grown man God commanded Abraham to take him on Mt. Moriah and here offer him up as a burnt offering.

- Abraham without hesitation got up early in the morning and took Isaac to the mountain but before they went up on the mountain Abraham said to the men who traveled with him to wait while he and his son go up and worship and then return. Abraham fully expected God to bring Isaac back regardless of what God commanded him to do, later Isaac himself asks father I see the wood, the fire but where is the offering, and Abraham said God would provide for Himself The Lamb.
- Abraham believed that even if Isaac was sacrificed that day God would raise him from the dead, as He had promised Abraham a son to carry on his lineage, accounting that God was able, that's faith folks. Do you believe God is able? Can God bring that which is dead back to life, you and I are living proof that He can > **Is 61:3**- God gives beauty for ashes, joy for mourning, praise for sadness amen!