

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS  
ENCOUNTERING CHRIST

# Abraham

## Faith Waiting

Hebrews 11:8-12

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ALL SCRIPTURES ARE PRINTED VERBATIM WITH TRANSLATIONS NOTED • CHAIR BIBLE PAGE # 175 (NT SECTION)

IN SOME PLACES, GOD'S WORD IS UNDERLINED WITH DOTS WITH PASTOR JOE'S COMMENTARY IN THE BRACKETED, LIGHTER FACED TEXT.

Little faith will bring your soul to heaven, but  
great faith will bring heaven to your soul. – C. H. Spurgeon

## A. Meet Abraham

1. Abraham means “Father of many;” Abram means “honored father.”
2. Circa 2100s BC Ur of the Chaldees (Current day ruins of Muqayyar, Iraq).
3. Abraham was one of the patriarchs of the Israelites.
4. He is revered for his covenant with God (Promise Land / Circumcision).
5. Abraham is exemplary in obedience and trusting—think “waiting.”
6. He is known for his near sacrifice of his son, Isaac, on the mountain.
7. He is also known for interceding for the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.
8. Abraham is revered in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
9. He lived 170+ yrs. and is buried with his wife, Sarah, on Mount Hebron.
10. More words are given to him than any other hero in Hebrews 11.
11. Genesis 12–25 chronicles his story.
12. James 2:23 records the fact that Abraham was called the “Friend of God.”

**Faith** used as a noun in Heb. 11, means *conviction, allegiance, total reliance* and **Believe** which is a verb, means *to trust in, to rely upon, to act on—it's something we do.* **POINT: Faith (n) is your conviction(s); Belief (v) is the action you take because of your conviction(s).**

## B. Abraham's Great Faith

### 1. Great Faith obeys God's call immediately.

**Hebrews 11:8, NASB95** -<sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham, when he was called [an urgent call to obedience implying a new relationship with the One who calls you; it's used of God's call to salvation and God's call to a ministry] obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going.

See Genesis 12:1-3, Joshua 4:2, Acts 7:2-3, Romans 1:1-5, Matthew 7:21, Luke 5:28, and Romans 8:28.

### 2. Great Faith lives as an alien in this world.

**Hebrews 11:9, NASB95** -<sup>9</sup> By faith he [Abraham] lived as an alien [lit., *stranger*] in the land of promise [“the promise land” (NIV), this is the only verse in scripture that refers to Canaan and *the promise land* and Abraham never owned any of it except for the land where he and his wife were buried], as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents [he would only be there a short time] with Isaac [his son] and Jacob [his grandson], fellow heirs of the same promise....

See 1 Timothy 6:17-21.

### 3. Great Faith believes God can do what is humanly impossible.

**Hebrews 11:11, NASB95** -<sup>11</sup> By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive [lit., even Sarah herself received power for the *laying down of seed*], even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised.

**Hebrews 11:11, NIV84** -<sup>11</sup> By faith Abraham [not named in the text], even though he was past age—and Sarah herself was barren—was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise. [Pastor Joe believes the NIV is right.]

See Luke 1:37 and Ephesians 3:20.

### 4. Great faith can endure the wait.

**Hebrews 11:12, NASB95** -<sup>12</sup> Therefore there was born even of one man, and him as good as dead at that, as many descendants AS THE STARS OF HEAVEN IN NUMBER, AND INNUMERABLE AS THE SAND WHICH IS BY THE SEASHORE.<sup>13</sup> All these died in faith, without receiving the promises....