



# Strengthening Your Faith in Those Tough Times of Utter Hopelessness

Hebrews 11:8-12

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pastor Joe's email is Joe@SouthReno.com

## A. Where Does Hopelessness Comes From?

### Suffering and Hopelessness

1. **Hopelessness came into this world because of sin.** (Gen. 3, Job 1-2, 1 Pet. 5:8)
2. **Hopelessness is compounded by our own sin.** (Gen. 4:7-8; 6:1-7, Eph. 2:1-3)
3. **Rescue from hopelessness is delayed because of the lost.** (2 Pet. 3:9)
4. **Strength for hopelessness is found only in Christ.** (Is. 40:29, Eph. 6:10)

“Christianity is not a vaccine that immunizes us against problems and difficulties in life.” –Pastor Joe

## B. Abraham and Sarah

### 1. Faith always focuses on God's Promises.

Hebrews 11:8, NASB95 - <sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham, when he was called\*...

\*cf., Genesis 12:1-3

### 2. Faith presupposes obedience.

Hebrews 11:8, NLT - <sup>8</sup> It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance....

### 3. Faith frees us to venture confidently into the unknown.

Hebrews 11:8, MSG - <sup>8</sup> By an act of faith, Abraham said yes to God's call to travel to an unknown place that would become his home. When he left he had no idea where he was going.

### 4. Faith realizes that this life will not always be easy.

Hebrews 11:9, NASB - <sup>9</sup> By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise;

### 5. Faith does not put it's hope in this world.

Hebrews 11:10, NIV - <sup>10</sup> For he was looking forward to the City with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

### 6. Faith finds hope in the utterly hopeless situations.

Hebrews 11:11, NIV84 - <sup>11</sup> By faith Abraham, 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.

Hebrews 11:11, MSG - <sup>11</sup> By faith, barren Sarah...

### 7. Faith knows that NOTHING is impossible with God.

Hebrews 11:12, NIV - <sup>12</sup> And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

## C. Life Application Section

1. 'God's timing' will probably not be 'your timing.' A/S never saw...
2. Nothing in this world will be secure, certain, or safe.
3. There will be no end to evil on this side of heaven.
4. God promises that only in Heaven will He make all things right.
5. Determine to keep your faith strong. Circumstances vs. Christ
6. Faith means more than *believing in God*—it means *believing God*.

“True faith goes into operation when there are no answers.” – Elizabeth Elliott

“Our prayers [and our faith] may be awkward. Our attempts [at prayer and faith] may be feeble. But, since the power of prayer is in the One who hears it and not in the one who say it, our prayers [and our faith] do make a difference.”

– Dr. Max Lucado [words added by JKT are in brackets]

“For the faithful believer, utter hopelessness ends the moment Christ enters you, but that hope may not be realized until the moment you enter Heaven.” – A. W. Tozer