

CHILDREN OF FAITH

Sermon Study Guide

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Key Texts: Romans 4:18–25 • Hebrews 11 • Hebrews 12:1–4 • Galatians 3:7–9 • Ephesians 2:8–10

THE BIG IDEA

Abraham became the father of a **family of faith**.

This family is not defined merely by physical ancestry, outward religion, circumcision, or religious knowledge. The true children of Abraham are those who share the **faith of Abraham**—those who believe God and trust in His promised Son, Jesus Christ.

“Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham.”
— Galatians 3:7

Real faith produces action—and this action is pleasing to God.

Our works do not produce saving faith. Rather, genuine works are the **fruit of genuine faith**.

1. WHAT IS REAL FAITH?

Read **Romans 4:18–25**.

Abraham believed God when circumstances gave him every natural reason not to believe.

His faith was not merely believing that God existed. Abraham **trusted what God had said**.

Consider Abraham's Faith

According to Romans 4:18–25:

- What circumstances seemed to contradict God's promise?
- What did Abraham choose to believe?
- What does it mean that Abraham did not “waver in unbelief”?
- What was Abraham convinced that God was able to do?
- Why was his faith “credited to him as righteousness”?

Personal Reflection

Is my faith based upon what I can see, or upon the faithfulness of the God who has spoken?

2. A CLOUD OF WITNESSES

Hebrews 11 gives us witness after witness of what faith looks like when someone truly trusts God.

These men and women were not witnesses to their own greatness. Their lives became witnesses to the **faithfulness of God**.

By Faith...

Abel — offered to God.

Enoch — walked with God and pleased Him.

Noah — feared God, believed His warning, obeyed Him, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

Abraham — left home and lived in tents in the land God promised him.

Sarah — believed God for a child beyond the natural years of childbearing.

Abraham — offered Isaac, trusting the God who had made the promise.

Isaac — blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things still to come.

Jacob — blessed Joseph's sons as he was dying.

Joseph — spoke of Israel's future exodus and gave instructions concerning his bones.

Moses' parents — hid their son because they believed God.

Moses — refused the privileges of Egypt and chose to identify with God's people.

What do they have in common?

Their circumstances were different, but genuine faith produced a response to God.

Faith believed.

Faith trusted.

Faith obeyed.

Faith endured.

Faith looked beyond what could presently be seen.

Read **Hebrews 11:13**.

They died in faith without receiving everything that had been promised. They saw the promises from a distance and lived as strangers and exiles upon the earth.

Discuss

What does Hebrews 11 teach us about the difference between **having faith in God** and simply expecting God to give us everything we want?

3. FAITH FIXES ITS EYES ON JESUS

Read **Hebrews 12:1–4**.

After describing this great cloud of witnesses, Scripture turns our attention to the One upon whom our faith ultimately rests:

JESUS

“Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith...”

— Hebrews 12:2

The heroes of Hebrews 11 encourage us, but **Jesus is the object and foundation of our faith**.

We are called to:

- Lay aside every encumbrance.
- Lay aside the sin that easily entangles us.
- Run with endurance.
- Fix our eyes upon Jesus.
- Remember what Christ endured.
- Refuse to grow weary and lose heart.

Personal Reflection

What tends to pull my eyes away from Christ?

What might I need to lay aside in order to run faithfully?

4. WHAT ABOUT US—ARE WE CHILDREN OF FAITH?

Being around the things of God is not the same as belonging to God.

Jesus confronted people who possessed religious heritage and knowledge but whose hearts were far from God.

Read:

- **John 8:44**
- **John 5:39**
- **Romans 2:28–29**

Jesus told religious people that they searched the Scriptures, yet the very Scriptures they studied testified about **Him**.

Paul likewise teaches that true circumcision is not merely something outward in the flesh. It is:

“Of the heart, by the Spirit.”

Real faith is not merely:

- Family heritage
- Religious identity
- Church attendance
- Biblical knowledge
- Outward religious observance
- Saying the right words

Faith is an **inward trust in God that produces an outward life of obedience.**

Think About It

How is it possible to know a great deal about Scripture and still miss the One to whom Scripture points?

5. THE TRUE CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM

Read **Galatians 3:7–9.**

God's promise to Abraham always looked beyond one man and one physical family.

“All the nations will be blessed in you.”

Scripture says that God was announcing the gospel beforehand to Abraham.

The blessing promised through Abraham ultimately reaches the nations through **Jesus Christ.**

Therefore:

“Those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer.”

The true heritage of Abraham is a **heritage of faith.**

We become part of this family not because of our bloodline, but through faith in the God who fulfilled His promise in Jesus Christ.

Personal Reflection

Am I trusting in a religious heritage, or am I personally trusting Christ?

6. REAL FAITH PRODUCES ACTION

Read **Matthew 7:21**.

Jesus warns us that simply saying, “**Lord, Lord,**” is not itself evidence of genuine faith.

Genuine faith changes the direction of a person's life.

But we must keep the order right:

We are not saved BY good works.

We are saved FOR good works.

Read **Ephesians 2:8–10**.

“For by grace you have been saved through faith...”

Salvation is:

BY GRACE — God's undeserved favor.

THROUGH FAITH — trusting in Christ.

NOT OF OURSELVES — we cannot produce our own righteousness.

NOT OF WORKS — there is nothing about which we can boast.

CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS FOR GOOD WORKS — a changed life follows genuine salvation.

Our works do not become our righteousness.

JESUS CHRIST IS OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Obedience is not an attempt to earn God's acceptance. It is the fruit that grows from a life that has truly trusted Him.

7. FAITH ITSELF LEAVES NO ROOM FOR BOASTING

Ephesians 2 reminds us that salvation is entirely a work of God's grace.

We cannot boast:

“Look what I have done.”

Our confidence is:

“Look what Christ has done.”

Even our ability to come to God in faith gives us no reason for pride. Salvation begins and ends with God's grace.

Therefore, genuine Christian faith produces both:

HUMILITY BEFORE GOD

and

OBEDIENCE TO GOD

We depend completely upon Christ for righteousness, while the faith that rests in Christ begins producing a changed life.

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Real faith is more than knowledge.

Real faith is more than outward religion.

Real faith is more than religious heritage.

Real faith trusts God.

Real faith rests in Jesus Christ.

Real faith produces obedience.

Real faith endures when the promise has not yet been seen.

Real faith produces works—but never trusts in those works for righteousness.

Our righteousness is found in **Christ alone**.

PERSONAL FAITH CHECK

1. **What am I trusting in for my standing before God?**

2. **Is my faith merely something I profess, or is it producing obedience in my life?**

3. **Where is God presently asking me to trust Him when I cannot see the outcome?**

4. **What does my life reveal about what I truly believe?**

5. **Are my eyes fixed upon circumstances, myself, or Jesus?**

THIS WEEK

Read **Hebrews 11** slowly this week.

As you read, mark every occurrence of the words “**by faith.**”

For each person, ask:

What did they believe about God?

What did their faith cause them to do?

What did they have to trust God with before they could see the outcome?

Then ask yourself:

If I truly believe God, what should faith look like in my life?

KEY TRUTH TO REMEMBER

“Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham.”
— Galatians 3:7

Real faith does not look to itself for righteousness.

It looks to Jesus Christ.

And the life that truly trusts Him will begin to bear the **fruit of faith.**