



SUNDAY MORNING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: The Ingredients of a Life of Faith

Passage: Hebrews 11:8-19

Speaker: Pastor Dan Preston

Introduction: Many people have different ideas about what it takes to please God. Some believe God is pleased by good works, religious activity, effort, or sincerity. But Hebrews 11:6 makes it clear: “But without faith it is impossible to please him...” Faith is not simply optimism, emotion, or wishful thinking; it is confident trust in God and in what He has said. There are really only two ways to live: by sight or by faith. Most people live by what they can see, understand, and control, but biblical faith chooses to trust God even without having all the answers. Through Abraham’s life we see what real faith requires. Faith is not easy or comfortable, but it is the only way to live a life that truly pleases God.

I. True Faith Involves a Willingness to Obey (Verse 8)

Faith responds to what God has said, even when it doesn’t have all the answers.

Faith begins when a person hears the call of God and is willing to leave behind a life of sin and unbelief and step into a life of trust and obedience.

Obedience always costs something, but real faith always moves.



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Faith that does not lead to obedience is not biblical faith. True faith always leads to decisive action.

Following God by faith is not like having everything clearly laid out in front of you. Faith comes in when you take that step, trusting God, and as you move forward, He gives you light for the next step.

II. True Faith Involves a Willingness to Wait (Verses 9-16)

After obedience comes something that is often harder—waiting.

The Christian life is not about settling down here, it is about passing through with the right priorities.

God often does His deepest work in the seasons where it feels like nothing is happening.

Faith rests in the fact that God is doing something, even when you cannot see it.

True Faith is not just willing to step out, it is willing to stay steady. True faith involves a willingness to wait.

III. True Faith Involves a Willingness to Sacrifice (Verses 17-19)

Abraham placed the most important thing in his life into the hands of God and trusted Him completely with it. Because that is what true faith does, it trusts God not only with what is easy, but with what is most valuable.

It is easy to surrender what is already low on our list of priorities. But faith is revealed when God touches what is at the center of your life.



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When God asks you to release control, to trust Him fully, it exposes whether He truly has first place in your life.

When we cling to things God is asking us to surrender, it creates tension, resistance, and struggle in our lives. But when we trust Him enough to release them, we discover something: God is always faithful.

Conclusion: The life of Abraham reminds us that true faith is revealed through obedience, waiting, and surrender. Faith is not merely something we speak about; it is something that shapes the way we live. Abraham trusted God enough to obey when he did not have all the answers, to wait when the promise seemed delayed, and to surrender what was most precious to him. That is the kind of faith that pleases God. But this kind of life begins with a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Salvation is not found in religion, effort, or good works, but in Christ alone. True faith moves us to trust God more, follow Him more closely, and place every area of our lives into His hands.

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

