

Sermon Notes 1/26/2025

## **“Faith in Action” (part 3)**

### **“Fe en acción” (parte 3)**

**How do we put our faith in action?**  
**¿Cómo ponemos nuestra fe en acción?**

1. Let's obey the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.  
Obedezcamos el \_\_\_\_\_ de Dios.

Hebrews 11:8 (Hebreos 11:8)

Hebrews 11:17-19 (Hebreos 11:17-19)

James 2:21-24 (Santiago 2:21-24)

2 Thessalonians 2:14 (2 Tesalonicenses 2:14)

2. Let's be citizens of \_\_\_\_\_.  
Seamos ciudadanos del \_\_\_\_\_.

Hebrews 11:9-10 (Hebreos 11:9-10)

Hebrews 11:13-16 (Hebreos 11:13-16)

Philippians 3:18-21 (Filipenses 3:18-21)

3. Let's allow God to \_\_\_\_\_ us.  
Dejemos que Dios nos dé \_\_\_\_\_.

Hebrews 11:11 (Hebreos 11:11)

Romans 8:11-14 (Romanos 8:11-14)

1 John 5:3-4 (1 Juan 5:3-4)



# Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 17: January 26 – February 2

Hebrews 11:8-19

In addition to Hebrews 11, many other passages of Scripture point us to the faith of Abraham as an example for us to follow. Genesis 15:6 says, “Abram believed the LORD, and He credited it to him as righteousness.” This verse is quoted four times in the New Testament. However, we would do well to remember that Abraham was on a journey of growing faith. And like us, when he started that journey, he was far from perfect. Abraham often struggled with doubts and fears. When the pharaoh showed an interest in his wife, Abraham was afraid to tell the king that Sarah was his wife (Gen. 12:18). Later, he made the same mistake with Abimelech, the king of Gerar (Gen. 20:11). And when Sarah thought that it was impossible for her to become pregnant, she told Abraham to take her servant, Hagar, and try to have a child through Hagar. Without seeking God’s will, Abraham followed Sarah’s plan (Gen. 16:2). And yet, through all these doubts, fears, and failures, Abraham held onto his faith and developed a deeper relationship with God.

Tremper Longman comments,

The New Testament presents Abraham as a model of the life of faith... The author of Hebrews understood the connection with the Christian life of faith. We too have received promises from God. He will be with us during our lives, and he will come again and bring his people into the heavenly city described in Revelation 21–22. But we too, like Abraham, are constantly challenged by threats and obstacles to the fulfillment of that promise. Is God really with me? The disappointments and pain of life seem to provide counterevidence. Is there really a heaven or is it a figment of my imagination? Doubts plague us. How do we respond? Fear or faith? (Longman, 163)

## Read Hebrews 11:8-19

1. What was Abraham called to do in verse 8?
2. How did Abraham respond to God’s call? (11:8)
3. Why did Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob live in tents instead of building houses in the promised land? (11:9; Acts 7:2-5)

4. What kind of city was Abraham looking for? (11:10)

5. Compare verse 11 in the NIV to some other translations. Do you think the author was talking about Abraham's faith or Sarah's faith in this verse?

Jim Girdwood and Peter Verkruyse observe,

This was not a virgin birth, but it was definitely a miraculous birth. What could not happen did happen "because he (or she) considered him faithful who had made the promise." There is a textual difficulty here. The NIV margin more closely follows the established Greek text, "Or: By faith even Sarah, who was past age, was enabled to bear children because she." Abraham's ability to have the promised son was dependent on Sarah's fertility. Thus, whether Sarah alone was "past age," or both of them were, makes no difference in the final outcome. (Girdwood and Verkruyse, 357)

6. How does the Bible describe the number of Abraham's descendants? (11:12)

7. How did the patriarchs continue to live by faith even when they did not receive the things promised during their time on earth? (11:13)

8. Why did Abraham never go back to the country he came from? (11:14-15)

9. What kind of country were the patriarchs longing for? (11:16)

10. How did God test Abraham's faith in verse 17? (Gen. 22:1-2)

11. According to verse 18, what promise did God make to Abraham concerning Isaac's future? (Gen. 21:12)

12. According to verse 19, what did Abraham believe about God's power over death?

### **Read Genesis 22:1-14**

13. What did Abraham say to his servants in verse 5?

14. What did Isaac ask his father in verse 7?

15. How did Abraham answer his son's question? (22:8)

The God who tests us is the same God who provides for us. For every challenge we face in life God is providing for us something good that can help us to grow closer to Him. He is Jehovah Jireh—our Provider. The ultimate provision this event points us to is the salvation we have in Christ. Paul Kissling notes,

The Lord is the focus of Abraham's statement. He saw to it that Abraham and Sarah had a son. He saw to it that a ram was caught in the thicket. He saw to it that this happened on the mountain where the Temple would later be built. As Christians we know that he saw to it that his son died on a cross for the sins of all humanity not far from this very mountain. (Kissling, 198)

16. What did the Angel of the LORD say to Abraham in verse 12?

God knew Abraham's heart and the strength of his faith. God also knew that Abraham needed this test in order to grow spiritually and develop a stronger faith. However, if God knows everything (1 John 3:20), how could He say, "Now I know" in verse 12? The word "know" in verse 12, is describing an experiential knowledge. John Walton writes,

We must differentiate between knowledge as *cognition* and knowledge as *experience*. We can agree that God knew ahead of time what Abraham was going to do. But there is ample evidence throughout Scripture that God desires us to act out our faith and worship regardless of the fact that he knows our hearts. (Walton, 514)

17. How has your faith been tested? How did that experience effect you?

18. How can we make heaven our home while we are still in this world?

19. What is something God has called you to do in your life?

20. In what area of your life do you want God to empower you?

**Sources cited:**

Girdwood, Jim and Peter Verkruyse. *Hebrews*. College Press, 1997.

Kissling, Paul. *Genesis Volume 2*. College Press, 2009.

Longman, Temper. *The Story of God Bible Commentary: Genesis*. Zondervan, 2016.

Walton, John. *The NIV Application Commentary: Genesis*. Zondervan Academic, 2001.