

I. We Commit with Initiating Faith (8)

- A. God spoke - “Abraham...was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance...”
- B. Abraham submitted - “By faith Abraham obeyed...he went out, not knowing where he was going.”

II. We Continue in Waiting Faith (9-10)

- A. It takes faith to keep still (9a) - “By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land...”
- B. It takes faith to keep living (9b) - “...living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise.”
- C. It takes faith to keep believing (10) - “For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.”

III. We Celebrate in Conceiving Faith (11-12) **{Things will be conceived and birthed}**

- A. We see human impossibility - “Sarah...when she was past the age...and {Abraham} as good as dead...”
- B. We behold divine empowerment (11) - “By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised.”
- C. We witness an astounding outcome (12) - “Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

IV. We Conquer in Contagious Faith (13-16)

What does Abraham’s faith teach us for today?

- A. The full reward of faith does not come in our lifetime (13) - “These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.”
- B. Faith teaches us that the greatest treasures are never earthly (14) - “For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland.”
- C. Faith no longer allows us to look back (15) - “If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return.”
- D. Faith convinces us that God’s best is yet future (16) - “But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.”