

THANKING THROUGH IT

Kelly Walter | November 25-26, 2023
Week 5: Faith to Get You Through It

◆ **BY FAITH YOU** _____

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. Hebrews 11:8 (NIV)

1. Look at the _____, not the whole journey.
2. Look at _____, not yourself.

Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end. Hebrews 12:2 (GNT)

◆ **BY FAITH YOU** _____

By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. Hebrews 11:9-10 (NIV)

Build your _____ on the foundations of the _____

◆ **BY FAITH YOU** _____

It was faith that made Abraham able to become a father, even though he was too old and Sarah herself could not have children. He trusted God to keep his promise. Though Abraham was practically dead, from this one man came as many descendants as there are stars in the sky, as many as the numberless grains of sand on the seashore. Hebrews 11:11-12 (GNT)

3 Sons Mentioned in Abraham's Life

Eliezer – Genesis 15
Ishmael – Genesis 16
Isaac – Genesis 21

3 Ways We React When We Must Wait for God's Promise

1. Eliezer: I'll have to _____

He took Abram outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Genesis 15:5 (NIV)

2. Ishmael: I'll have to _____

3. Isaac: I'll choose to _____

◆ **BY FAITH YOU SACRIFICE**

By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death.

Hebrews 11:17-19 (NIV)

God sent Christ to be our sacrifice. Christ offered his life's blood, so by faith in him we could come to God. Romans 3:25 (CEV)

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◆ **BY FAITH YOU STEP OUT**

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. Hebrews 11:8 (NIV)

1. Look at the **FIRST STEP**, not the whole journey.
2. Look at **GOD**, not yourself.

Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end. Hebrews 12:2 (GNT)

◆ **BY FAITH YOU STAY**

By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. Hebrews 11:9-10 (NIV)

Build your **PRESENT** on the foundations of the **FUTURE**

◆ **BY FAITH YOU SUCCEED**

It was faith that made Abraham able to become a father, even though he was too old and Sarah herself could not have children. He + trusted God to keep his promise. Though Abraham was practically dead, from this one man came as many descendants as there are stars in the sky, as many as the numberless grains of sand on the seashore. Hebrews 11:11-12 (GNT)

3 Sons Mentioned in Abraham's Life

Eliezer – Genesis 15
Ishmael – Genesis 16
Isaac – Genesis 21

3 Ways We React When We Must Wait for God's Promise

1. Eliezer: I'll have to settle for less

He took Abram outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Genesis 15:5 (NIV)

2. Ishmael: I'll have to do it myself
3. Isaac: I'll choose to trust in God

◆ **BY FAITH YOU SACRIFICE**

By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death.

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God sent Christ to be our sacrifice. Christ offered his life's blood, so by faith in him we could come to God. Romans 3:25 (CEV)

THANKING THINKING THROUGH IT

FAITH TO GET YOU THROUGH IT Talk-it-Over Notes | November 25-26, 2023

REVIEW IT

The life of Abraham shows us how to have a faith and perspective that cooperates with God, even when God may challenge or even change our faith direction.

Following Abraham's example: **By faith you step out** against your fears and step into the vision God has for your life. When facing the unknowns, look at the *first step*, not the whole journey. Look to God, instead of yourself, for God's knowledge more than makes up for what you don't know. **By faith you stay** the course, even in the face of obstacles. Problems are a part of life, but it is better to choose the problems of a Christ-centered life backed by Christ's strength instead of the problems that accompany a self-centered life on your own strength. **By faith you succeed** as you trust God's promises despite doubt, difficulties, or disappointments. **By faith you sacrifice**, understanding that the work of blessing others for God's glory is ongoing — yet, the rewards will last forever.

*It was faith that made Abraham able to become a father,
even though he was too old and Sarah herself could not have children.
He trusted God to keep his promise.
Hebrews 11:11 (GNT)*

Spend some time in the Word: Read Genesis chapter 15

TALK ABOUT IT

1. Fears can often be paralyzing, keeping us from moving forward on the path God has for us. What is God calling you to do, but you may be letting fear keep you from obeying? How can taking the first step put you in motion?
2. God not only wants us to *get to* the promised land, He wants us to *live in* the promised land. What does that mean for you? What steps can you take to build your present on the foundations of the future?
3. There is no faith without struggles. In spite of this, do you find yourself settling for less, working out of your own strength, or trusting in God to see you through? Share a time in your life where God helped you see the best strategy.

ACT ON IT/PRAY ABOUT IT

Sometimes we achieve success in an area of our life, and then think we can set that area on the shelf and coast the rest of the way. God doesn't want us to waste the work we have put into it. The book of Hebrews shares the examples of faith-filled followers. Who can you share *your* life examples and experiences with to further God's Kingdom? Remember, you only need to be one step ahead to lead those behind to be a disciple maker.

Pray for God to open your eyes to someone to lead, and the courage to step out in faith.