



The Faith of Abraham and Sarah Hebrews 11:8-16 NRSV

What is Faith?

a. The Faith of **Abraham**.

Genesis 12:1-4; Genesis 15:1-6

God gives a **Promise** before God requires faith.

1. The Faith to See when to **Go**.

“By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going.”
Hebrews 11:8

2. The Faith to See when to **Stay**.

“By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.”
Hebrews 11:9

b. The Faith of **Sarah**

“By faith Sarah herself, though barren, received power to conceive, even when she was too old, because she considered him faithful who had promised.”
Hebrews 11:11

Genesis 18:10-15

Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?” The LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.” But Sarah denied, saying, “I did not laugh”; for she was afraid. He said, “Oh yes, you did laugh.”

Genesis 21:1

“The LORD dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as he had promised.”

Genesis 21:6

“Now Sarah said, ‘God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.’”

3. The Faith to See God as **Faithful**.

“She considered him faithful who had promised.” Hebrews 11:11

Galatians 4:22-26 – “But the other woman corresponds to the Jerusalem above; she is free, and she is our mother.”

c. The Faith of their **Descendants**

4. The Faith to See a **Hopeful Future**

“All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.” Hebrews 11:13-16

Christian Faith Sees **Jesus Christ**.

“Looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.” Hebrews 12:2

“An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.”
Matthew 1:1

“They answered him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham's children, you would do what Abraham did, but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth which I heard from God; this is not what Abraham did.” John 8:39-40

What is Faith? *Faith is a way to see God.*