

## Part 7 – By Faith Abraham Offered

**Hebrews 11:1** Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

**2** For by it the elders obtained a good report.

- Knowing that nothing we do can produce anything worthwhile.
- Knowing that faith is the key to the supernatural power of the Almighty.
- Knowing that faith, real faith produces some action in the life of the believer for the glory of the Object of faith.
- As we go through the Hall of Faith and look at the images set before us
  - We want to truly see what their faith produced with the knowledge that the creation cannot create
  - only the Creator is truly producing anything.
  - God is not giving them glory for anything other than trusting Him as He produced unbelievable things.

**Hebrews 11:17** By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,

**18** Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:

**19** Accounting that God was able to raise *him* up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.

- I don't know if I've ever been "tried" by God like this...
  - what am I saying?
  - I have never been "tried" like this.
  - If I had been I don't know if I would have reacted "by faith".
  - Faith produced an obedience in Abraham like we have only seen in Christ.
  - Abraham trusted God for a son in his old age...
    - wait not really, he had a son with Hagar.
    - Abraham learned to trust God, howbeit, often like I do, the hard way.
  - Hagar brought Abraham a son,
    - though if Abraham had trusted God in the famine, there may have been no Hagar.
  - God promised a son,
    - Abraham trusted for a while, then when faith wasn't working, he and Sara helped God out.
  - What intimacy was lost between Abram and Sara?

- What intimacy was found in Hagar?!
  - What love Abraham had for Ishmael!
  - What disdain Sara had for both Hagar and Ishmael when faith produced the son of promise...
  - sin messes up life and **doubting is sin.**
  - How difficult it must have been for Abraham to cast out his oldest son and behave like he had never existed...
  - lesson learned.
- By faith, that was learned the hard way...
    - Abraham just trusted that even if God had him take his son's life,
    - God would give his son life.
    - God said, "in Isaac shall thy seed be called".  
**(Genesis 21:12)**
    - God cannot lie
    - Abraham knew that so He obeyed, in and by faith.
    - Real faith produces an obedience tried by the most difficult of circumstances.
  - Has God ever really tested your faith?
    - Do you have children?
    - Do you care deeply for them?

- Do you care deeply for your walking in faith?
- Have these ever been in conflict with each other?
- Kind of puts Abraham in a whole other league, right?
- Have you ever wondered why God tested Abraham this way?
  - He had already proved his obedience in many ways
    - He had cast out Ishmael and Hagar at God's direction
    - So, he proved his love for God over his son Ishmael
  - But Isaac is the son of promise, so Abraham loved him more, right?
    - I love that our passage tells you why Abraham obeyed
    - He counted God able to raise Isaac from death
      - So, was it really a test?
      - You do it...
  - So, why did God test Abraham this way?
  - **John 9:1** And as *Jesus* passed by, He saw a man which was blind from *his* birth.
  - 2** And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?"

**3** Jesus answered, “Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: **but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.**

**4** I must work the works of **Him** that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

**5** As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

**6** When He had thus spoken, He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay,

**7** And said unto him, “**Go, wash in the pool of Siloam,**” (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

- **Romans 9:21** Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the **same lump to make one vessel unto honor, and another unto dishonor?**

**22** What if God, willing to shew *his* wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction:

**23** And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory,

**24** Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?

- When Isaac was carrying the wood and the fire...
  - **Genesis 22:7** And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, “My father:” and he said, “Here *am* I, my son.” And he said, “Behold the fire and the wood: but where *is* the lamb for a burnt offering?”  
**8** And Abraham said, “My son, **God will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt offering:**” so they went both of them together.
  - Do you remember God's Sacred Covenant with Abraham...Abraham did!