

## “Commendable Faith (Part 2)”

Hebrews 11:39 says of the ordinary men and women who ended up in God’s “Hall of Faith” that they were *commended for their faith and obtained a good testimony through faith*. When we consistently live out our Christian beliefs in everyday life we’ll also end up in God’s “Hall of Faith” in heaven! Hebrews 11:8-13 says: “*By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup> By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; <sup>10</sup> for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. <sup>11</sup> By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup> Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore. <sup>13</sup> These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*” These “Hall of Faith” inductees teach us three things about commendable faith.

**First** of all, having commendable faith means *we obey God*. God spoke to Abraham, giving him promises and instructions, and Abraham blindly obeyed. He trusted God enough to take Him at His word. Though he had never been where God was directing him to go, Abraham’s faith didn’t require any details God beyond what supplied; it was simply enough for him that God was asking him to go. *Belief and obedience* must always go hand-in-hand. Those who have commendable faith do what God asks them to do. **Secondly**, having commendable faith means *you keep believing God, no matter how long it takes for the promises to become reality*. Once Abraham arrived in the land God promised to give to him (Canaan), he discovered the Canaanites were then in the land. But God gave him this promise in Genesis 12:7, “*To your descendants I will give this land.*” How do you feel when you arrive at the place of promise and all the things promised don’t immediately materialize? Abraham reminds us that promises don’t materialize into physical reality on our timetables, but on God’s. One of the greatest expressions of faith is to stand on the promises of God and wait patiently in the place where God wants you to be without seeing any physical evidence of the promise being fulfilled. Like the heroes of faith did in Hebrews 11, we need to also see the promises afar off and be assured of them and embrace them. Even if they’re not received in our lifetime. Remember, it’s not about *you* receiving the fulfillment of the promise, it’s about *the promise* being fulfilled. When we live in faith, we can die in faith, whether or not the promises that we have believed God for were received in our lifetime. **Third**, having commendable faith means *you consider the Promise-Maker to be faithful*. Even in their old age Sarah and Abraham received strength to conceive and bear a child of promise because they considered Him who had made the promise faithful. God’s incredible works might make us smile, but the fact that nothing is impossible with God is no laughing matter. Faith in the Promise-Maker is the key that gives us access into the arena of the impossible being accomplished. Commendable faith believes God, regardless of how impossible to human ears the promise may sound.

### Discussion Guide/Action Steps

1. Look up the hymn, *Trust and Obey*, and sing along.

2. What are some promises God has given to you? Are you still expecting them to come to pass, even if you've been waiting on their fulfillment for a while?
3. Do you believe God is trustworthy and true to His word?