

Building Our Faith....By the Example of Abraham

Introduction

1. We are continuing our study of faith so as to be able to have confidence in our God and steadfastness in our work for Him.
2. Let's keep the object of these lessons ever before us:
 - A. To show that faith, or confidence in God's promises is the means of perseverance in true religion and consequently salvation!
 - B. To know that our true faith will allow us to confront and conquer trials and tribulations.
3. We learned in the example of Noah, that a strong faith is a faith that will **persevere** for the cause of Christ.
 - A. In addition, we have learned the following:
 - 1) **Hebrews 11:1**
 - 2) **Hebrews 11:6**
 - 3) Noah persevered because he was **"moved with godly fear"**
4. This morning we will now look at the faith of Abraham which led him to obey the word of God.

Abraham

Hebrews 11:8-10, 17-19

- 1. There is so much that we can talk about concerning the great faith of Abraham.**
 - A. I want to break our discussion up into two parts this morning:**
 - 1) Part 1) Abraham's calling (Hebrews 11:8-10)**
 - 2) Part 2) Abraham's trial (Hebrews 11:17-19)**
- 2. The outstanding trait in all of Abraham's life was his willingness to believe God.**
 - A. We do not know how he came to believe in God in his idolatrous environment, but his trust had to be deep and abiding for him to be able to do as God directed him.**
 - B. Romans 4, Hebrews 11, and James 2 are scripture monuments to Abraham's faith!**
 - 1) It seemed that whenever the Holy Spirit needed one to cite as an example of justification by faith, it was Abraham that He usually chose.**

Abraham's Obedience to the Divine Call

1. Genesis, chapter 12 tells us of the call from God to Abraham, that now begins a lifelong journey of a faithful example for us.
Genesis 12:1-9
2. Abraham left a city thought to have 500,000 people, to become a nomad dwelling in tents (11:8).
 - A. His 500 mile journey to Canaan saw him building altars where he would worship God and keep his faith strong.
 - 1) It is important to note that his life was not a sinless one, such as his deception in Egypt, for which he was sent out of the country.
3. But through it all, we can't help but be impressed that he so unhesitantly listened to God's call to leave home and friends.
 - A. For approximately 10 years he wandered in Canaan
Genesis 16:16.
 - B. He did not know where he was heading or what was before him in that strange land - BUT he believed God and obeyed God (11:8).
4. Abraham obeyed God and chose to put Him above his own family and friends — because of great faith.
 - A. Our faith is tested to prove what we will do today:
Matthew 10:32-39

Abraham's Personal Trial of Faith

Hebrews 11:17-19

1. There were many times in the life of Abraham, as in ours, that his faith was put to the test.
 - A. The trial recorded in Genesis 22 is a narrative charged with emotion, sympathy, and triumph!
Genesis 22:1-13

2. Let's briefly look at a number of ways in which Abraham's great faith was exemplified
 - A. His prompt action.
 - 1) He did not question God, but rather he was determined to obey God. He made NO excuses!

 - B. His thorough preparation.
 - 1) He made all the necessary physical preparations; his donkey, the wood, food, etc.

 - 2) No doubt as he made the long journey he was reflecting upon what he was about to do, his heart was prepared!
 - a. Note: Some people only make physical preparation for obeying God, but they fail to prepare their hearts.
Ezra 7:10

C. He had complete confidence.

- 1) Abraham knew that it was through his seed that the divine promises would be fulfilled.
- 2) The severity of the command did not destroy Abraham's faith in God. He trusted that all would turn out well.

D. He had complete **obedience.**

- 1) Despite his great attachment to his son, God was first.
- 2) As he was ready to kill his son, God said unto him:

Genesis 22:12 Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; **for now I know** that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."

- a. Faith said **"I believe in God"** Works said **"I'll show you how much."**

E. He had a perfect faith - "a faith that grew to maturity."

- 1) James wrote these words:
James 2:21-24
- 2) Having passed the test, a ram was provided by God to offer as a sacrifice.
 - a. God has provided a sacrifice for us in the form of His only begotten Son!

Abraham's Summary

1. **Key verse: (Hebrews 11:8)**
"By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called...."
2. **Key thought: Obedience**
 - A. Abraham really knew where the source of life was. Life is in the Father who gave it. Abraham exhibited an obedient faith.
3. It is unlikely that the faith of many has been tested to such an extent as Abraham's, but the faith of some have survived similar trials.
4. Faith is simply the willingness to trust God, to take Him at His word, to do it "His way."
5. **May we all examine our life and remember the warning in Hebrews:**
Hebrews 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.
6. **Let us all profit by reflecting on the faith of Abraham. When trials come, let us be firm in our stand for what we know to be the will of God.**
 - A. **GREAT is the REWARD for faithful service!**

Next Week:

Building Our Faith.....by the example of MOSES

