The Faith of Abraham

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INTRODUCTION

- The Hebrew writer tells us that faith is the evidence of things not seen.
- Those who have no faith, no understanding and belief of what the future, the eternal future holds, are like those two boys with a stick, scarily poking the ground to see if it's going to hold up.
- Abraham is the father of all who believe. Because Abraham stands in Scripture as the grand example of faith, of what it means to have faith in God.

1 Not a Blind Faith, Based on What God Revealed

Acts 7:2–4; Romans 10:17; Proverbs 14:12

- His faith was not a blind faith, and it was not a faith that he based upon himself, that it was a faith based upon what God had revealed to him.
- The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran, and said to him, Get out of your country and from your relatives.
- God has spoken to each and every one of us through his word. And our faith is to be based upon that revealed word of God.
- Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
- Our feelings and our emotions are too unstable and unreliable to be dependent on.
- Do I want to base my eternity, my soul's eternity, on something as unstable and unreliable as my feelings?

2 An Obedient Faith

Hebrews 11:8–17

- 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.
- By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac.
- It says over and over again about what Abraham did because of his faith.
- God did not call us to be theologians. He called us to be disciples. And I don't have to understand. I just have to do what God said.
- Believe me and do what I say. Isn't that kind of what Abraham did? Abraham obeyed.

3 He Put His Trust in God

- This may be a somewhat neglected aspect of faith in our studies.
- That we trust God. That we trust that God's way is best.
- Do I trust that he has my best interest at heart?
- I don't see how this is the best interest of me and my family, but I trust God.

- Do I trust God? Do I have the faith of Abraham?

4 Abraham's Faith Grew

John 9:11; John 9:17; John 9:35–38

- Before he was Abraham, he was Abram. And then his name changed, his faith changed. His faith grew.
- Abraham's faith, though it might at times have been mixed with a little bit of doubt, it never fully gave way. And it grew.
- The more he obeyed, the more his faith grew, the more he trusted in God.
- His faith was based upon revelation. It was a trusting faith, and it's a faith that grew.
- Then he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him. You see the progression of this man's faith.
- It's a growing faith because he is presented with further and further evidence of who this man called Jesus is.

THE CHALLENGE

How do you want to walk through life? Trepidatiously poking the ground in front of you with a stick in fear that it's all going to cave in. Or do you want to run through even the darkness? Confidently.

MY NOTES