



## **A Faith that is Seen**

Series: *Faith* Hebrews 11:8-12

April 22, 2018

Pastor Brian Erickson

### ***Three snapshots of Abraham's life***

1. Abraham **obeyed** God  
Hebrews 11:8, 10

2. Abraham **believed** God would provide  
Hebrews 11:11-12

3. Abraham **offered** Isaac as a sacrifice  
Genesis 22:1-2; Hebrews 11:17-19; Matthew 16:24; Mark 9:35; Genesis 22:5

# Growth Group Questions

All references from New International Version (NIV)

## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## MY STORY

1. What is one thing you have dreamed about achieving, pictured in your mind when you were younger, and planned your activities around? Have you achieved it?
2. Share about a time when someone discouraged you in one of your 'life pursuits.' How did you respond? Did you still achieve it?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. In Ephesians 2:8-9 the Apostle Paul writes, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith...not by works...". Some people read this and think that faith does not include works. What do these verses say about that?

### **Matthew 7:16-17**

<sup>16</sup>By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup>Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.

### **Galatians 5:6**

<sup>6</sup>For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

### **Ephesians 2:10**

<sup>10</sup>For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

### **James 2:18**

<sup>18</sup>But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.

If you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you? If so, what evidence?"

What is the difference between 'saving faith' and 'works of faith'?

2. On Sunday, in our study of 'Faith' in Hebrews 11, Brian focused on Abraham's faith. Abraham was living a comfortable and secure life when God called him to go, and he went. He obeyed. What part does obedience play in faith? Read...

**Joshua 1:8**

<sup>8</sup> Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

**John 14:23**

<sup>23</sup> Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

**1 Corinthians 15:58**

<sup>58</sup> Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

**James 1:22**

<sup>22</sup> Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

Rick Warren said, “You only believe what you do.” Do you agree?

In John 14:15 Jesus said, “If you love me, keep my commands.” If you are a parent, do you feel more loved if your kid tells you they love you, or if they obey? Explain. How does this apply to your relationship with Christ?

3. When Abraham and Sarah were told they would have a child in their 90’s, they considered God faithful because of the promise He had made. They believed God would provide. What do these verses say about God’s provision?

**Matthew 21:22**

<sup>22</sup> If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.”

**Luke 12:24**

<sup>24</sup> Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds!

**Philippians 4:19**

<sup>19</sup> And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

**1 John 3:21-22**

<sup>21</sup> Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God <sup>22</sup> and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him.

Brian told the story of George Mueller, English preacher and philanthropist in the 1800's who ran an orphanage. One day when they were out of food, he led the orphans in prayer for what they were about to receive, and God provided. Share about a time in your life when God provided.

Do you think it's easier for Christians living in third world countries to trust God's provision than it is for Christians in America? Why or why not?

**4.** Hebrews 11:18 says God tested Abraham's faith by asking him to offer up his son, Isaac, and Abraham obeyed. Abraham's obedience was based on God's promise that through Isaac, his offspring would be reckoned. What do these verses tell us about God's promises?

### **Jeremiah 29:11**

<sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

### **Romans 8:28**

<sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

### **2 Corinthians 1:20**

<sup>20</sup> For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.

### **2 Peter 1:4**

<sup>4</sup> Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

How does having faith in God's promises prove your faith? Take time as a group naming as many of God's promises as you can. You can use your Bible.

What 'challenge of life' are you going through right now? Is there a promise of God you can cling to in the midst of that 'challenge'? If so, what is it?

How would you like our group to pray for you regarding this 'challenge'?

## **TAKING IT HOME**

Based on this week's sermon and homework, what is the most important thing for you to remember and why?