

Incredible faith

Faith

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All right. Hallelujah. If you have your Bibles, let's run over to Hebrews chapter number 11. And we are going to go to verse number 11. We will read that verse. We will pray and ask the mighty God to help us for help tonight. Let's go over there to Hebrews chapter number 11 and verse number 11 and we will see what our God has for us tonight. Some of you all was touching on it already. And I was like, man, get off the message, amen? And so... but you will see exactly when I read it to you here a few moments.

But the Bible says in Hebrews chapter number 11 and verse number 11 the Bible says this:

“Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.”¹

I want to talk tonight as we are going through our faith series out of Hebrews 11, I want to talk tonight, listen {?} incredible faith.

Father, I pray for you mighty help tonight. Father, we came out tonight to worship you. We came out to exalt your holy name. We came out to hear from the Word of God and, Father, as we come here for the last service we will have here at Son Rise for 2011, I do pray and ask God to just breathe upon us with a special breeze. I pray and ask God that you would not just in a very unique and also in a life changing way. And I pray, God, on each of us will leave tonight with that incredible faith, that incredible confidence in a living and true God which of course, Father, is you. I pray, God, we would trust your Word, trust your promises, believe what you said that you would do and then watch it take place in our very lives and {?} God will shout hallelujah. And then as we pass through this way I do want to pray, again. We can't pray too much. I do want to pray again for all the requests that were made known tonight of various needs, those who are battling cancer, those, God, who are battling emotional situations, those who are in the midst of financial crisis, those who are needing jobs, and of those who are having health issues. I pray, master of heaven, {?} every situation. I pray, God, that you deal with that peace in our soul, that peace in our spirit, that the mighty God would do exactly what you

¹ Hebrews 11:11.

promised us that you would do. You said you would hear the cries of your children as we came to you and cried out to you on a regular basis. And tonight, God, we shout, hallelujah. I pray, God, for our young people tonight. Breathe on these young girls and boys and teenagers. I pray, God, you would use them in a tremendous way to spread the good news that Jesus saves. {?} I like it and I like it when our young folks sing, "God, increase my faith. Increase my confidence and my reliability on a holy God." Father, help somebody tonight because somebody needs your touch. Somebody needs your help. God, please {?} I pray that there is someone that might be in bondage in their mind and bondage in their spirit, bondage in their heart, their feelings and their emotions. I pray, God, you would come by and break through that hard wall. I pray, God, you break down that barrier. I pray, God, you would break down whatever it is that has them hemmed up in a corner. I pray, God, {?} swinging. I pray, God, they come out fighting with the power of the Holy Spirit of God behind their fist as they punch their way out of a situation. The enemy is trying to lock them in. And then, God, we will thank you. Help us, master. We will trust you and {?} if I have left anything out, I pray, God, that you would meet that wonderful need, too, and we will praise your sweet name. We love you, sir. And we bless your sweet name again. We make our request, our thanks, our praise in the name of Jesus, will you pray? Amen.

Amen, you may be seated. Hallelujah. Thank God for his Word. Thank God for his promises. We was praying that I am reminded over in that verse. I was trying to get you all sometime or another when I came across it. I didn't come across it. I was praying and the Lord said, "You know that verse you are looking for?" I said, "Yeah."

Open that Bible. Open it up. It fell right on that verse. It was over there in John 14 verse 13 and 14 when the Bible says this. Jesus says:

And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.²

And that is his promise, amen. And I am going to tell you what, my dear friends. We need to start believing the promises of a holy God. But often times we are afraid to say we will come and we want to ask this in the name of Jesus, in other words, in his authority, because you know what? Where his desires may not be our desires. So we say, "Lord, I don't know if I want to ask it that way." But I want to say what? Whatever God has for us it is all good. And none of it bad. God never gave you a bad dish. We may not have liked what we were eating, but it was definitely good for our spirit and good for our soul, amen? We are going to talk tonight a little bit about that faith we are just reading about. That takes faith to believe them words and we need some of that incredible faith that we are going to see here in a few minutes by a lady by the name of Sarah.

Now Sarah has been beat up. Poor Sarah. Sarah has been beat. She has been drug in the mud. We have {?}. You know if wasn't Sarah told Abraham and Sarah tried to intervene

² John 14:13-14.

and Sarah... you better read your Bible. This is my idea of friends. While we are sitting there beating up on Sarah the Bible says this.

“Through faith Sarah...”³

The {?} girl listened ... {?} the folks were listed in Hebrews chapter 11, my dear friends, are people he is using as examples of faith. But if God hadn't put it in Hebrews chapter 11 we, as we read over in Genesis and other verses we would have decided that she was someone that lacked faith when God said in Hebrews through faith, Sarah. Sarah.

When Sarah went and got Hagar and said, “I am going to try to help God.”

Where does the Bible say that in? I am not trying to beat up on nobody's {?}, but where does the Bible say that? Where does the Bible say that Sarah tried to help God? It ain't there. Go from Genesis down to Revelation it ain't there.

Well, we say, well, read it. Read the chronicle. Yeah, chronological order of the whole store and you will see, my dear friends, she was just doing what she was... what {?}. But yet we {?}. That is how we do folks in real life. We beat them up kick on them and they ain't got no... how do you know? This is my idea, friends. The Bible says, God's Word says that:

“Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive.”⁴

Why? The Bible goes on to say in the last part of verse 11 because she judged him faithful. Sarah judged God faithful or trustworthy who had promised.

Oh, that messed up {?}. And it messed them up, amen, because the Bible is ... so what is going to happen is this. Somebody has got to start explaining that away, because the Bible says that she believed his promise. And because of her belief she received strength to receive. Man, that is... {?}

First of all that word incredible. That word incredible means very difficult to believe. It means so extraordinary as to seem impossible. Many of us have faced some incredible situations, but it takes incredible faith to believe that God and to keep his Word, to keep his promise. And that type of faith, I believe that Sarah had, incredible faith. In other words, she was believing that God could perform the incredible, that he could perform that which was not natural, that he could perform that which seemed, key word, seemed impossible.

What is the first thing here? The first thing is this. If you have incredible faith you must rely, not on your own promise, but rely on his promise. When the Bible says back over in Hebrews chapter number 11... well, we will be going back in just a second, but look at Hebrews 11 verse 11.

³ Hebrews 11:11.

⁴ Hebrews 11:11.

“Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.”⁵

The key word now or the key question now is this. What was the promise? Now let’s go back to Genesis. Go back to Genesis chapter number 18 and verse number nine. Now in this verse as far as we know is the first time that it comes in the ears of Sarah that Abraham is going to have a child through her. Not have a child, but have a child through her. The Bible says in Genesis chapter number 18 and verse number nine:

“And they said to him...”⁶

Now I want you to understand, too, this is after Ishmael had come on the scene. This is after that Abraham has had been with Hagar. The Bible says in chapter number 18 verse nine:

And they said unto him, Where is Sarah thy wife? And he said, Behold, in the tent. And he said, I will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life; and, lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son. And Sarah heard it in the tent door, which was behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old and well stricken in age; and it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women.⁷

In other words the time had gone by for her to actually have a child. Her age had put her in a position that she wasn’t naturally able to have a child at this time. But look what the Bible says. The Bible says:

Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also? And the LORD said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old?⁸

Now where is he laughing, you all? Within herself. She didn’t laugh out loud. The Bible says, but he Lord said, “Wait a minute. Why is she laughing? Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old?”

Here it is, guys.

Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son. Then Sarah denied, saying, I laughed not; for she was afraid. And he said, Nay;

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Genesis 18:9.

⁷ Genesis 18:9-11.

⁸ Genesis 18:12-13.

but thou didst laugh. And the men rose up from thence, and looked toward Sodom...⁹

He had business to take care of. But the Bible says when she heard this she laughed. Well, she shouldn't have been laughing at God.

Ok, you need to study these words now. The word laugh here is used in different ways. It all depends on the context in which it is placed at. And the laugh that she had here, my friends, was not one of disbelief, but one of incredibility. It was like... and if you want to say disbelief, using it in the sense of like this. {?} how can this happen to me?

The Bible says, my dear friends that when she laughed it was like this scene. I mean, come on. I mean, yeah. Are you serious? And she didn't do it out loud either. Let's give a little break here. She did it on the inside like some women do. When I am preaching I will be saying something and I see... {?} right. But at the same time, my dear friends, here... and, by the way, she wasn't the only one that laughed. This is the same Hebrew word that is used with Abraham in a few chapters before where the Bible says he laughed.

But notice that when she laughed the response that came from the Lord was this:

“Is anything too hard for the LORD?”¹⁰

Because she was {?} this is incredible. How can this be happening? {?} And then we will see later on that the word ... the name Isaac actually means something called laughter. She laughed {?}, well I don't believe that. {?} joy. I am getting ahead of myself, but {?} a lot of other things, amen. But nonetheless her faith was in something. She is relying on a promise that God had given. God had promised that there would be a child.

So you have incredible faith, number one. It is relying on a promise that God has given. So that is why it is important to read the Word of God and find out what are the promises. But {?} that my dear friends, also incredible faith, my dear friends, receives.

Look back now with me back over to chapter number 11 and the Bible says this in chapter number 11 and verse number 11. The Bible says this.

“Through faith also Sara herself received...”¹¹

You see, when you and I have faith, when we have confidence in God, then God will give us some things. We will receive some things that we need from him. In this case, my dear friends, do you know what she need to receive from him? Strength to be able to have the child. She did not {?} woman {?}. Yeah, what did you say? Bless her soul. Bless her

⁹ Genesis 18:14-16.

¹⁰ Genesis 18:14.

¹¹ Hebrews 11:11.

heart. How in the world is she going to have a baby? She is 80 something years old. But, my friends, when you and I have incredible faith, we believe in the incredible, we believe in that which blows your mind, number one, number two, my dear friends, we will receive from God strength. And that word strength here in this verse, my friends, means this. It means miraculous power, miraculous power. So in other words, she received strength or miraculous power on {?} to be able to conceive. And when God has something for you and I, he will give to us what we need to have in order for that promise to be fulfilled. The Bible says Sarah received strength to do what? To conceive seed, offspring. And the Bible says was delivered of a child.

Not only did she conceive or not only was she pregnant, but she also delivered the child. That means it was actually produced. {?} who actually become pregnant. We have moms here today that become pregnant. They conceive a child. But that child never actually was produced into this world from outside their womb. That child went home to the Lord. But the Bible says this. Not only did she conceive or have, become pregnant, but she also produced the child who came into this world. It was there. And as we have seen, Robert, you know the story, Isaac went on the mountain with his daddy Abraham when he was about to slay him on that altar. We see, my dear friends, that God will... we will receive whatever we need to receive from him to have that promise come to fulfill. She receive strength. The Bible says she conceived. The Bible says she was delivered of a child which means not be produced when she was past age. That means passed the proper time.

Why the Bible tells us, because she judged him faithful. That word judged means to consider or to think him faithful or trustworthy who had promised. So, in other words, my dear friends, she decided, you know what? I can trust him. God is worthy of my trust.

Let me ask you. Is God... I ain't talking about me. Is God worthy of your trust? Is he worthy for you to put your confidence in him that he will do the impossible?

Pam, she just mentioned a few moments ago how the Lord just keep pouring out blessings and she was {?} but she showed me she said that the ... somebody from the school, I believe it as, from {?} school and {?} but she heard by her they are having a fire at the house. She went to her church, saw her pastor and she said {?} But she came and gave {?} how many pairs of jeans?

[off mic voice]

{?} Who? Debbie {?} You all know about them {?}. I {?} 22 pair of those. And then blouses and stuff.

[off mic voice]

Right. But the whole... That ain't it. Then she showed me the card. And I saw the card... I saw... you know, you look at the card, you can tell, because the card... don't mess me up {?} we are saying her, but when she picked the card up she handed {?} and this card was puffy. And usually {?} But nonetheless, though, it was puffy, I said. And she said... {?}

All these gift cards, all these gift cards. 50 dollars, 50 dollars, 20 dollars. This is a code for a grocery store, for ... ooh, I need that one. American Express, man, T J Max, Marshalls, T J Max, Sears, Old Navy {?}. That is {?} dear friends. You said 430 dollars worth of gift cards. Hallelujah. {?} We have a God, my dear friends that knows how to meet his children's needs. We have got a God, my dear friends {?} I can do the incredible. I can do the impossible. I can blow your natural mind. Hallelujah. We have a real God. Hallelujah. He is real.

And what does it do to your faith? When you think he is done, I ain't done. He says, "I will open up a window and pour you out a blessing where you will have not room to receive it."

Oh, if you trust me.

He did say try me. {?} How do you beat that? Listen. The Bible says over here in Malachi he says, "Prove me," which means test me. You can't beat that. When God says to you {?} You do this. I am going to do this. Now test me. Prove me. I am going to do it. {?} Well God, is it really you telling me to do this. Is it really the will of God? Is it {?} He said, "Try me. Test me."

But some of us, unfortunately, we never step over to that area of the incredible because we won't trust him to do the incredible. We will stay here we are safe. It is safe over here. Right here it is nice and safe. I know what I think I can expect. I feel... right here I am safe. And what is the term they use? Comfort zone? My comfort zone is comfortable here. Yeah. I don't want to change {?}. You know, I don't want to change jobs, because I have been here for a long time. I don't know how they are going to act over there. Sometimes I have got to set the whole job down and get some folks out of there.

Can you imagine someone trying to bless you and yet we won't do what we says? Do it to be able to get the blessing? And {?} material things. See, God has saved you. Let's look at the money, for example. God can save you money by keeping you healthy. That is one way he can bless you. God can save you money by you going not the store {?} instead of two dollars it was 99 cents. {?} but he is saves you money. There is so many ways... but, see, we are looking for the {?}, you know, {?} all kinds of ways. I can work in all kinds of ways, but I can move.

When was the last time you had a good night's sleep? I mean just slept good, just slept. And I am not talking about fighting yourself and fighting your spouse and anybody else that came your way. I mean just slept. And got up refreshed raring to God. God says, "Trust me. Rely on my promises. And when you rely upon my promises you will, watch this. You will receive from me what you need to receive in order for the promise to actually take place."

Beloved, my dear friends, {?} not only that, but we see the incredible faith is rewarded. It

receives, but it is also rewarded. It receives what it needs to have in order for the reward to come to pass.

The Bible says here back over in chapter number 11 verse number 11. The Bible says this:

“Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead...”¹²

Because you remember, you know, when years later that when the baby actually comes about he is 100 years old. Sarah, I believe, was 90 years old when the baby actually got there. She was pregnant she was 89. And she was 90 when the baby came by. He said his body is as good as dead. {?}

“Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.”¹³

That means, my dear friends, {?}. You can’t count how many folks there are. This is part {?}.

By the way, that is another message but the Bible talks about us also coming under that, under his family as well as Abraham. That means, my dear friends, that is millions upon millions of {?} their place on this blessing and this promise that was given to Abraham. Awesome.

Now I am going to show you this and we are done. {?} Look what the Bible says I Genesis 21. We see faith is rewarded. Look at Genesis 21 and look at verse number one. The Bible says this:

“And the LORD visited Sarah as he had said.”¹⁴

{?} I will come by and they do come. They do visit. Well, guess what? The Lord said, “I am coming by at such and such a time.” And he was there. The Bible says that:

“And the LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did unto Sarah as he had spoken.”¹⁵

He kept his Word. He kept his promise. The Bible says:

“For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.”¹⁶

¹² Hebrews 11:11-12.

¹³ Hebrews 11:12.

¹⁴ Genesis 21:1.

¹⁵ Ibid.

God has an appointment for that promises to be fulfilled The Bible says, my dear friends:

“And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac.”¹⁷

Which means laughter. The Bible says:

And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac being eight days old, as God had commanded him. And Abraham was an hundred years old, when his son Isaac was born unto him.¹⁸

One hundred years old and here is his boy. Promise, fulfilled. My young friends, God keeps his words and we will be rewarded when we trust God to do the incredible. But not only that, when we have incredible faith it also causes rejoicing. The Bible says in verse six:

And Sarah said, God hath made me to laugh, so that all that hear will laugh with me. And she said, Who would have said unto Abraham, that Sarah should have given children suck? for I have born him a son in his old age.¹⁹

This laughter was talking about rejoicing, friends. By the way, it is the same. Oh, I forgot {?} one of those two words that is the same exact word that was used over there that we looked at a few moments ago in Genesis chapter 18.

God has caused me to laugh so that they may laugh with me. We are going to rejoice, because God has fulfilled his promise. God has kept his word.

When I mentioned that about Pam what do we do? We all rejoiced. {?} you all rejoice. {?}

But nonetheless, my dear friends, rejoicing. {?} incredible faith, my dear friends, hey, rejoicing is right around the corner because we are trusting God to keep his promises. And, by the way, others will also rejoice right along with us.

I wonder when is the last time we caused some other folks to rejoice because we have been rejoicing. When you hear about folks doing stuff to bless other folks, if you have got the Holy Ghost living with you at all it will cause you to rejoice. Somebody mentioned about that somebody {?} it was that had given him... was it you, Tim, that joined? {?} but, anyway, he had left I think about... yeah, 400, 500 dollars of worth of gift cards and stuff for McDonalds, 25 dollar gift card each one of them. And they took

¹⁶ Genesis 21:2.

¹⁷ Genesis 21:3.

¹⁸ Genesis 21:4-5.

¹⁹ Genesis 21:6-7.

them and gave them to the guys who were looking for jobs down at the homeless shelter so they would be able to get some food for lunch while they was going out to be looking for jobs. He did that. You know what folks did? They rejoiced.

{?}, friends, when folks are getting blessed there is others that are rejoicing as well. But hold on a minute. What if we are not receiving the blessings that God has promised us because we are not doing what we need to do so that others can rejoice like they would rejoice if we would do what we are supposed do so we would be rejoicing and they would be rejoicing? {?}

But think about that. When you {?} when you get blessed others will be blessed as well. Maybe some of our homes aren't receiving the rejoicing that we need to receive, because maybe there is one or a few people I the house they ain't doing what they need to do in order for these things to actually take place. Because you know how many it takes? Just one. It takes one, one person. So you know what? I am going to do exactly what the master said to do. No mater what anybody else says to do, I am going to do exactly what he told me to do. And what is going to happen is the folks that are around you are going to... they might not rejoice right away, especially when changes come. You know what I am saying? {?} I am sure you all, your kids run away, "Oh, we get home schooled. Praise the Lord. Glory."

No. That may come later. That will come later. But right now they are saying about what they might miss, you know, but you are doing what the Lord has told you to do, what is going to happen is they are going to be blessed in return. They are going to be blessed and then they will look back and they say, "You know what? I am so glad this took place, because this {?} taken place, maybe this would have taken place. But because I did what God said to do look what has happened. {?} he was out of work, I believe it was, when he went with me that time to Victory Baptist Church. And we went down there and those folks... I am telling you, they shot... they run, they {?} laughs and stuff. I mean they just have just a great time. But nonetheless, I knew for here we was over there at {?} house and Brett was missing. Now what was that? And then finally Brett came in the house, you know, says... you know Brett. I said, "{?} Are you all right?"

Yeah. What are you doing? Said I was running. Ok. Well, {?}

And then where were we at? We were somewhere else and God was dealing with him and {?} when he said that God was dealing with him about being a deacon, I believe it was. Well, see, later, after all of this had take place, it wasn't so much about being a deacon when he got saved last year it was God dealing about salvation.

So I have known several folks in my life who even this, they have mistaken the power to preach for the call to salvation. {?} of a few moments. So a lot of times a person will be living outside of the will of God doing some crazy stuff, all kinds of stuff. And they are out there smoking. I mean, I am serious. {?}

I mean once you get right which could be that moment, then he may call you to preach {?}. Do you know what I am saying? But I think {?} right first.

{?} I have seen a lot of stuff, this happened on this side of the pulpit. This shouldn't be happening {?} called to preach. I have really seen some bad stuff. You wonder if that person was ever called. No, but I can't say who was and who wasn't. But {?} we have been {?} you can't help it You will be trying to be quiet.

{?} I have got to say something. But that ain't right. And you have a desire to preach the Word of God it is a burning desire that cant' be put out. I don't care who much {?} get dumped on it. I mean that {?}

But you know what? He will come back again.

And you will be like, man, I... you will be... everything will be going around you good, but you will be miserable. You are miserable. {?} somebody is trying to get your attention. And then when God does get your attention you surrender and you start rejoicing. What happens? When Brett surrendered to preach what happened? Man, we rejoiced. We were shouting, praising God. When Steve announced his call to preach, what were we doing? We were rejoicing. When Randy was called to preach {?} we rejoiced. When Billy was called to preach we questioned, but we rejoiced. No. I am just teasing. But we rejoiced.

When a person comes forward to get saved, what do we do? We rejoice, because they are own rejoicing. When God blesses somebody, when they are rejoicing we are rejoicing. But, my dear friends, what are we saying here? Listen. A lot of us have caused so much more rejoicing along those lines if we were to have that incredible faith, the faith to believe incredible that God has promised us that he would do.

What are we waiting on? Just to believe him. Here we go.

Let's go back over to Hebrews. We are done. Look at Hebrews chapter number 11. Look what it says right here. Hebrews chapter 11 verse 11. The Bible says:

“Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.”²⁰

We are not faithful as we need to be. Even when you surrender to do what God has called you to do, you are not going to be effective as God would have you to be. Why? Because you still have a sin nature. You are still flawed. But the Bible says right here, though, my friends, but she judged him faithful who had promised. And he fulfilled his promise.

Let me ask you this. What has he promised you? What has he said to you? What is he nudging you to do? It might be {?}. You are already saved. But he wants you life. It belongs to him, because you gave it to him when you gave him your soul when you

²⁰ Hebrews 11:11.

trusted Christ as your Savior. {?} for him. Young person, old person, no matter who you are. What does he say to you to do?

{?} Maybe it is a matter of going to somebody and saying you are sorry. Do you know that one little word sorry could change somebody's direction in their life? But if we won't be obedient in that one little are that looks like this. I can't tell them I am sorry. Oh, man, oh, no. That might be giving in and all that kind of stuff. And they are going to be like, yeah, you are sorry. {?}

So you hold back. Maybe it is saying I am sorry. I am sorry for what I said. I am sorry for what I did. I am sorry for what I have been thinking. I am sorry. I was wrong. And guess what? They may have been wrong, too, but that ain't our focus. And if you folks you {?} sorry. Then how many times {?} as teenagers and kids when we fell out with one another, especially you all ladies {?} guys. We just... what do we do? We get over it. Man, we could fight each other and beat us half to death and {?}, but how many girls, though? {?} people I general, though, how many times we have not {?} I am sorry somebody will be mad. {?}

And because somebody once said they are sorry they are all the sudden somebody says, "You know what? Let me tell you about her {?} friends." So you know some {?} ok. Anyway, what does it say for you to do?

Two questions and we are done. First of all, do you need incredible faith? Secondly, do you want incredible faith? And then, lastly, just a simple statement. Let's ask God to increase our faith because our brother said a few moments ago, let's ask God to increase our faith in his word. That is what he said. So now is my question. Now my question is this. What does he say to you? Let's do it.

Father, thank you {?} blessings. I thank you, Lord, for the {?} that are here tonight. I thank you, Lord, for and I pray, Father, I beg in the name of your Son Jesus that your Word has penetrated minds and hearts and I pray, God, that now I am going to {?} what you have said to us we are going to respond by being obedient to whatever you said for us to do.