

SERMON OUTLINE

In Hebrews 11:8-12, we are shown 2 examples of Abraham and Sarah's faith.

- I. By faith Abraham obeyed God.
 - A. He obeyed immediately when called (v. 8a).
 - B. He left to receive an inheritance (v. 8b).
 - C. He left for an unknown place (v. 8c).
 - D. He & his descendants lived as strangers in a strange land (v. 9).
 - E. He left to find God's eternal city (v. 10).
- II. By faith Sarah believed God for His promise.
 - A. She believed God to be faithful and conceived when she was too old (v. 11).
 - B. She believed God to be faithful and an innumerable number of descendants came forth from Abraham even though he was as good as dead (v. 12).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, February 14, 2021

Passage: Hebrews 11:8-12

Memory Passage: Hebrews 11:8-10

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Heb. 11:8-12 & Gen. 12:1-9.** Summarize what you learned last week about the faith of those before the flood.
- (b) Explain how you were sanctified as you applied Heb. 11:4-7 during the last week.
- (c) What does Genesis 12:1-9 tell you about Abraham's call to leave Ur of the Chaldeans?
- (d) The grammar in Heb. 11:8 tells us that Abraham's obedience was immediate. What did that obedience look like, and what needed to be accomplished in Abraham's life and his clan in order to immediately obey?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Heb. 11:8-12.** What was Abraham's inheritance and when did he receive it (cf. Gen. 23:1-20; 25:1-10; Acts 7:4-5)?
- (b) Did you know this is the only verse in the Bible that uses the phrase "land of promise" (and "Promised Land" never occurs)? Why do you think our author uses this phrase here to describe the land in which Abraham lived?
- (c) Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are said to be strangers in a strange land (the word translated "went to live" means "dwell as strangers/sojourners"). Why is this important to know, and how does the "For" which begins v. 10 help you answer?
- (d) Think of ways that God has spoken to you from His word during the last month that required obedience empowered by faith. Was your obedience immediate? Was it by faith? Was it a call to the unknown and required faith which "is the reality of things hoped for, the proof of things unseen?" How might you be better prepared to obey God by faith when He speaks again?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Heb. 11:8-12.** For what "city" was Abraham looking (cf. Heb. 12:22; 13:14; Gal 3:24-25; Rev. 21:9ff; etc.)?
- (b) To what "foundations" does our author refer, and why is Abraham looking for such a city?
- (c) In what way is God the "designer" and "builder" of this city?
- (d) In what ways are you a sojourner, a stranger traveling in a strange land (cf. Ps. 119:19; Jer. 29:7; Phil. 3:20; 1 Pet. 2:11)? How does this affect the way you live your daily life? How *should* it affect the way you live your daily life? How might your study this week strengthen your ability to immediately obey by faith the commands of the Lord when He speaks?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Heb. 11:8-12; Gen. 18:9-21.** How did Sarah exercise her faith (v. 11)?
- (b) Does our author contradict the text of Gen. 18 when he holds her up as an example of faith? What signs do you see in Gen. 18 & Gen. 21:1-7 that show her faithfulness even though she laughed (and Abraham laughed as well; cf. Gen 17:17)?
- (c) How old was Abraham, who our author calls "as good as dead," when Isaac was born?
- (d) Does Heb. 11:12 refer to physical descendants or spiritual descendants? Using your knowledge of Biblical Theology explain your answer with Scriptures.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Heb. 11:8-12.** In what ways does God's faithfulness to His promises cause your faith to be more active? To what promises do you hold that provide the strength for you to exercise your faith in an active way? What promises should you memorize that might help you remain faithful in the future?
- (b) Why has God always asked His people to walk by faith instead of sight? What does He accomplish through this both in your life and for His glory?
- (c) Write down 3 more ways you were encouraged toward a life of obedience by faith during your study this week?

DATE: February 14, 2021

PASSAGE: Hebrews 11:8-12

Faith that Obeys the God of Promise