

**"The Walk of Faith"**

**Part 10**

**Hebrews 11:1-40**

**Introduction:** Tonight as we continue our study in the book of Hebrews we are again stepping into chapter 11 where the writer is reaching back to the Old Testament and he is lifting up those who walked by faith in the lives. We are currently looking at Abraham who was the father of the Nation of Israel and last week we looked at the faith which Abraham exercised when he walked away from Ur of the Chaldees in obedience to the call of God upon his life.

**Notice Hebrews 11:8**

Abraham stepped away from a thriving city and he followed God to a land which he knew nothing about. He did not know where he was going, he did not know what he would do when he arrived there and he did not know how he would survive in this new land. But he did know that the ONE TRUE GOD had called him and therefore he trusted God and he turned his back upon the old life and he set his face toward the new life which God had for him.

Now last week we considered two important points which are required if we are going to be people who live by faith.

1. **To live by faith starts by you and me separating ourselves from the old life.**

Abraham completely turned his back upon the old life which he knew in Ur of the Chaldees. He had been deep into idolatry and to walk by faith with God he had to walk away from that which had previously been a big part of his life.

2. **To live by faith requires a change in leadership within our lives.**

The second thing which had to happen was that Abraham had to have a change of leadership in his life. When he left Ur his father Terah was in command and it was not until Terah died that Abraham could receive the blessings which God had for him. Terah is a picture of the sin nature in the believer. We cannot walk by faith until the sin nature is dethroned in our lives and leadership is given over to the Holy Spirit. This now brings us to where we are in our study tonight.

- i. **The Examples of Faith**

**Part 7**

**"Abraham"****Part 2****Notice Hebrews 11:9**

There is much to be considered within this verse and what is said here about Abraham. We see here that Abraham "sojourned" in the land of Canaan. The word "sojourned" here means that he dwelled in the land of Canaan as a "stranger". In this verse we are also told that Abraham dwelled in "tabernacles". This means that Abraham dwelled in a tent and not a house while he was in the land of Canaan. There are several important lessons to be learned about Abraham in these 2 thoughts.

1. **Abraham never allowed himself to get rooted into the land of Canaan.**

Abraham was promised by God that he and his seed would inherit the land of Canaan.

**Genesis 12:5-8**

<sup>5</sup> *And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.*

<sup>6</sup> *And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land.*

<sup>7</sup> *And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.*

<sup>8</sup> *And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD.*

**Genesis 13:14-17**

<sup>14</sup> *And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:*

<sup>15</sup> *For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.*

<sup>16</sup> *And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.*

<sup>17</sup> *Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee.*

Abraham and his seed were promised the land of Canaan but yet he never allowed himself to become rooted into the land. We must understand that Abraham was a very wealthy man but he did not invest his wealth in the things of Canaan. He was content to rest in the promises of God. We can see this in the events which unfolded when Sarah died.

**Genesis 23:2-4**

<sup>2</sup> *And Sarah died in Kirjatharba; the same is Hebron in the land of Canaan: and Abraham came to mourn for Sarah, and to weep for her.*

<sup>3</sup> *And Abraham stood up from before his dead, and spake unto the sons of Heth, saying,*

<sup>4</sup> *I am a stranger and a sojourner with you: give me a possession of a buryingplace with you, that I may bury my dead out of my sight.*

When Sarah died Abraham did not even own a portion of land large enough to bury his wife and he had to purchase the burial site from the people of Canaan. This helps us to see that Abraham never allowed himself to get caught up in the "STUFF" of this world.

**Application:**

The persecution which the Hebrews faced would cost many of them as far as the possessions of this world were concerned. But they were not to be rooted into this world. They were to be focused upon their heavenly home. This world was not their home and therefore they were not to be rooted here. As believers they were now citizens of heaven and so they were to live like pilgrims on the earth.

**Ephesians 2:19**

<sup>19</sup> *Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;*

**Philippians 3:20**

<sup>20</sup> *For our conversation[citizenship] is in heaven: from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:*

**1 Peter 2:11**

<sup>11</sup> *Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;*

David had grasped this principle very well. Notice his words in 1 Chronicles.

**1 Chronicles 29:15**

<sup>15</sup> For we are strangers before thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers: our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding.

2. Abraham was always ready to pick up and go wherever God desired for him to go (there was not one thing which tied Abraham down).

The fact that Abraham dwelled in tents helps us to understand that he was prepared at all times to pick up and follow God whenever He would call. He refused to allow himself to become entangled in the affairs of his day but instead he always made sure his schedule was flexible so that God could have priority over whatever he had planned.

**Application:**

The Hebrews would also need to refrain from getting caught up in the cares and the affairs of this world. God desired to work through their lives and for that reason they needed to be ready to serve. Life was too short to postpone God's will for their lives. They were to make plans and they were to be organized but they were also to be sure there was flexibility in their schedules.

**James 4:13-15**

<sup>13</sup> Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:

<sup>14</sup> Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

<sup>15</sup> For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

**2 Timothy 2:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup> No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

Let me show you something concerning the will of God for our lives.

**Romans 12:1-2**

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

<sup>2</sup> *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

God's will for our lives is:

1. **Good** - This means "morally honorable".
2. **Acceptable** - This means "pleasing" to God.
3. **Perfect** - This means there is nothing to be added.

By not living in the will of God they would be missing great blessings. It is not possible to live by faith in the will of God if they were entangled in the affairs of this world.

3. **Abraham remained separated from the influences of the land of Canaan.**

**Notice Hebrews 11:8 again.**

I want you to notice that Abraham dwelled in tents with Isaac and Jacob who were also heirs of the promise. I find it very interesting that Abraham was in the land of Canaan but he kept his distance from the Canaanites. His fellowship was with those of like faith. He certainly had contact with the people of Canaan but he was careful not to get involved in their practices. Therefore the people of Canaan had no influence over Abraham. He would follow God regardless of the temptations which surrounded him.

**Application:**

They could not allow themselves to be influenced by the practices and the opinions of the people around them. Abraham separated from the people of Canaan and their influences and the Hebrews needed to do the same. There was much peer pressure being applied to the Hebrews. Their fellow Jews who were not saved were putting pressure on them for following Jesus Christ and stepping away from Judaism.

We too live in a world today where there is much pressure when we decide to take a stand for the Truth of God's Word and when we decide to live by faith.

**Psalm 37:12-14**

<sup>12</sup> *The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth.*

<sup>13</sup> *The LORD shall laugh at him: for he seeth that his day is coming.*

<sup>14</sup> *The wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, and to slay such as be of upright conversation.*

**John 15:19-20**

<sup>19</sup> *If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.*

<sup>20</sup> *Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.*

4. **Abraham had his focus on an eternal home.**

**Notice Hebrews 11:10**

The first word of this verse is so very important for it tells us how Abraham was able to live the life of faith. He was not living for what this world had to offer. He did not grasp on to the riches and the treasures of this world for he knew that God had something far better. He was looking forward to the day when God's promises would be completely fulfilled and he would inherit his heavenly home. It was this focus which allowed Abraham to continue to press forward and walk by faith in the land of Canaan.

**Application:**

God had something far better for the Hebrews and He has something far better for us.

**John 14:1-2**

*Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.*

<sup>2</sup> *In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

**1 Peter 1:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

<sup>4</sup> *To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.*

**Conclusion:**

I want to give you 4 principles which are needed to walk by faith:

1. To live by faith means that we are going to need to let go of this world and its riches.

**Luke 12:15**

<sup>15</sup> *And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.*

2. To live by faith means that we must not be entangled in the cares and the affairs of this life but we must be ready to answer the call of God.
3. To live by faith means that we are going to have to be able to allow the opinions and the comments of the world roll off our backs.
4. To live by faith means we are going to need to focus upon our eternal home and the riches which await us there.