

Going by Faith

Text: Hebrews 11:8-12

Date: 5-11-25

I. Abraham: Father of faith (Heb. 11:8-19)

A. Faith Before the Promised Land - Leaving by faith (Heb. 11:8)

Abraham didn't know where, how, when, and what in this journey. But, he obeyed. Although he didn't have a single one at the time, God promised that Abraham would receive an inheritance through his descendants, and that promise came true.

Faith is going when not knowing. Faith doesn't make excuses or arguments. Faith trusts the revelation of God even when everything is not revealed. Faith goes forward when everyone else thinks we are crazy.

Faith trusts God in the blackness as we walk by faith and not sight. God will fulfil His promises, but we must obey.

Faith is growing and not blowing. Faith stands tall and is fastened to the rock of God's truth/ Faith is not being blown over by the winds of those who live by earthly standards. Faith is taking a step forward while anchored to the One who leads in each step. Faith is not some random stab in the dark. The light of the Word of God shines in the darkest of paths.

Faith is accepting and expecting even when we yet haven't been experiencing. Faith accepts God's will and expects God's promise even though we haven't seen everything fulfilled. Abraham is that example.

B. Faith During the Promised Land – Living by faith (Heb. 11:9-10)

God very seldom reveals the totality of His plan at one time. He gives us only what we need to take the next step.

Abraham's faith is an example of trusting God at His word. Faith is trusting God through the unknowns when the road seems murky and dark. We may encounter detours and dead ends, but faith sees God working through those difficulties for a greater good. Patience is needed while living by faith. Patience to wait as you wonder. Patience to hold on while things seem upside down. Patience to continue on as God leads step by step. Abraham waited for God many times. He waited for God to reveal his destination and even then he was a pilgrim in the land. He waited for a son. He waited for God to work all the while trusting God's promises.

How about you? Are you waiting on God? Have you prayed and prayed without receiving an answer? We are all waiting for Christ's return. What are you doing in that time? The promises are given, and we must live with expectation and hope. But, we also must act obediently.

C. Faith After the Promised Land – Looking to the future by faith (Heb. 11:10-12)

What kept Abraham living by faith? God's word and promises. What keeps us living by faith? God's word and promises.

Abraham looked for something a pilgrim longs for: a permanent home. Certainly, Abraham looked forward to an earthly home. But, his focus and faith was on something greater, fuller, and richer: God's eternal home.

Disappointed? Down? Discouraged? Tired of waiting? Trials? Struggles? We don't just trust God and hope to get by. We live by faith knowing the future that is to come. We long for the days to be with Jesus. We sing and think of them. We set our affections on things above as we lay up treasures in heaven. We long to be in the presence of the Lord. We haven't experienced it, but we expectantly look for and eagerly await it.

Faith sees the invisible do the impossible.

Rob Robbins writes about faith and God: "Faith is not built on our ability to see God's purposes, but on seeing God Himself. Seeing the Invisible is clinging to what we know of God's character, regardless of circumstance. Understanding God's purposes is the view from the end of the road, when we look back over the twists and turns of the journey and see how Providence makes sense" (193).

Conclusion

So, we keep going. Somehow. We do not always know the directions or the timeline. We do not always know the outcome on this earth. But, we trust the One who has the outcome all planned, prepared, and provided. We know the end will culminate in the heavenly city. Meanwhile, God is at work on His people. Are you allowing Him to work on and through your life?