



## Part 4: The faith of Abraham & Sarah

Hebrews 11:8-19

Faith is a lifelong journey of deepening surrender to Jesus.

### I. Introduction

Everyone lives by faith in someone or something...

“Faith is a radical and hopeful trust in Jesus.” – Adam Long

The phrase “by faith” is used 21X in Hebrews 11. The writer of Hebrews gives Abraham more attention than any other Old Testament person, because the writers of the New Testament see Abraham as the father of the faithful, whether Jew or Gentile.

“So then, he is the father of all who believe...who **walk in the footsteps of faith** that our father Abraham had...” Romans 4:11b-12

“Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham... So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.” Galatians 3:7, 9

“The life of Abraham is an example for all Christians who want to walk by faith. Abraham was saved by faith (Gen. 15:6; Rom. 4:1-5; Gal. 3:6-14) and lived by faith (Heb. 11:8-19), and his obedience was the evidence of his faith (James 2:14-26). Abraham obeyed when he did not know where (Heb. 11:8-10), how (Heb. 11:11-12), when (Heb. 11:13-16), or why (Heb. 11:17-19); and so should we.” – Warren Wiersbe, *Be Obedient: Learning the Secret of Living by Faith*

### II. Faith is a Lifelong Journey of Surrender

*Faith is a lifelong journey of deepening surrender to Jesus.*

A. Faith begins with God's call in Jesus to come on a lifelong journey of trust (Heb. 11:8-10; Genesis 12:1-4).

"By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as an inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going." Hebrews 11:8

"So then, he is the father of all who believe...who **walk in the footsteps of faith** that our father Abraham had..." Romans 4:11b-12

Faith begins with our personal response to God's personal call to us through King Jesus. It's an initial act of trust and surrender as we say no to other guides, Saviors, and paths in order to follow Jesus.

"When you walk by faith, you lean on God alone: His Word, His character, His will, and His power." – Warren Wiesrbe, *Be Obedient: Learning the Secret of Living by Faith*

"An age suffocating in self...faith, in general is less about sacrifice of stuff and more about the surrender of our souls." – Alicia Chole

B. Faith is grounded in God's faithfulness to His promises (Heb. 11:11-12).

"Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations...Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead – since he was about a hundred years old – and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God..." Romans 4:18-19

Three promises on which to build your life in Jesus:

1. God will save those who look to His Son King Jesus for their salvation (Romans 10:9-13).
2. God will always love those who belong to Him through King Jesus (Romans 8:28-39).
3. God will always hear His children's voice talking to Him (Psalm 4:3).

C. Faith includes trusting God to do what seems impossible to us (Hebrews 11:17-19).

### **III. Hope and The Long Journey Home (Hebrews 11:13-16)**

"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for."  
Hebrews 11:1-2

"The sweetest thing in all my life has been the longing – to reach the Mountain, to find the place where all the beauty came from – my country, the place where I ought to have been born. Do you think it all meant nothing, all the longing? The longing for home? For indeed it now feels not like going, but like going back." – C.S. Lewis, *Till We Have Faces*

The writer of Hebrews tells us to keep our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.