

## **Building Our Faith....**

### ***Through the Hall of Faith (3)***

#### **Introduction**

- 1. We are continuing our study of faith so as to be able to have confidence in our God and steadfastness in our work for Him.**
- 2. Let's keep the object of these lessons ever before us:**
  - A. To show that faith in God's promises has been in all ages the means of perseverance in true religion and consequently salvation!**
  - B. To show there is power in faith to keep the mind and heart, in midst of trials and tribulations, having examples before us, to adhere steadfastly to the profession of our faith.**
- 3. We have learned over the past 2 weeks that a strong faith is a faith that is one which will suffer, remain steadfast, and will persevere for the cause of Christ as we learned in the character examples of Abel, Enoch and Noah.**
  - A. We have learned the following:**
    - 1) Heb 11:1**
    - 2) Heb 11:6**
    - 3) Abel - Suffering - "he being dead, still speaks"**
    - 4) Enoch - Steadfastness - "he pleased God"**
    - 5) Noah - Perseverance "moved with godly fear"**
- 4. Tonight, we will progress through the hall of faith and learn about another important Bible character to help us establish a firm faith in our Lord.**

## **Abraham**

### **Hebrews 11:8-10, 17-19**

- 1. There is so much that we can talk about concerning the great faith of Abraham.**
  - A. Tonight, I want to break our discussion up into two parts.**
    - 1) Part 1) Abraham's calling (Heb 11:8-10)**
    - 2) Part 2) Abraham's trial (11:17-19)**
  
- 2. The outstanding trait in all of Abraham's life was his willingness to believe God.**
  - A. We do not know how he came to believe in God in his idolatrous environment, but his trust had to be deep and abiding for him to be able to do as God directed him.**
  
  - B. Romans 4, Hebrews 11, and James 2 are scripture monuments to Abraham's faith!**
    - 1) It seemed that whenever the Holy Spirit needed one to cite as an example of justification by faith, it was Abraham that He usually chose.**

## **Abraham's Obedience to the Divine Call**

1. **Genesis, chapter 12 tells us of the call from God to Abraham, that now begins a lifelong journey of a faithful example for us.**  
**Genesis 12:1-9**
2. **Abraham left a city thought to have 500,000 people, to become a nomad dwelling in tents (11:8).**
  - A. **His 500 mile journey to Canaan saw him building altars where he would worship God and keep his faith strong.**
    - 1) **It is important to note that his life was not a sinless one, such as his deception in Egypt, for which he was sent out of the country.**
3. **But through it all, we can't help but be impressed that he so unhesitantly listened to God's call to leave home and friends.**
  - A. **For approximately 10 years he wandered in Canaan (Gen 16:16).**
  - B. **He did not know where he was heading or what was before him in that strange land - BUT he believed God and obeyed God (11:8).**
4. **Abraham obeyed God and chose to put Him above his own family and friends — because of great faith.**
  - A. **Our faith is tested to prove what we will do today:**  
**Matthew 10:32-39**

## **Abraham's Personal Trial of Faith**

### **Hebrews 11:17-19**

- 1. There were many times in the life of Abraham, as in ours, that his faith was put to the test. But the trial recorded in Genesis 22 is a narrative charged with emotion, sympathy, and triumph!**  
**Genesis 22:1-13**

Gen 22:2 Take now your son, your only son Isaac, **whom you love**, and go to the land of Moriah, and **offer him there as a burnt offering** on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.

- 2. Let's briefly look at a number of ways in which Abraham's great faith was exemplified**
  - A. His prompt action.**
    - 1) He did not question God, but rather got up early in the morning, determined to obey God. He made NO excuses!**
  - B. His thorough preparation.**
    - 1) He made all the necessary physical preparations; his donkey, the wood, food, etc.**
    - 2) No doubt as he made the long journey he was reflecting upon what he was about to do — his heart was prepared.**
      - a. Note: Some people only make physical preparation for obeying God, but they fail to prepare their hearts.**

**C. He had complete confidence.**

- 1) **Abraham knew that it was through his seed that the divine promises would be fulfilled.**
- 2) **The severity of the command did not destroy Abraham's faith in God. He trusted that all would turn out well.**

**D. He had complete obedience.**

- 1) **Despite his great attachment to his son, God was first.**
- 2) **As he was ready to kill his son, God said unto him:**

Gen 22:12 Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; **for now I know** that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."

- a. **Faith said "I believe in God" Works said "I'll show you how much."**

**E. He had a perfect faith - "a faith that grew to maturity."**

- 1) **James wrote these words:  
**James 2:21-24****
- 2) **Having passed the test, a ram was provided by God to offer as a sacrifice. God had provided a substitute for Isaac.**
  - a. **We have been saved short of death. God has provided a substitute for us in the form of His only begotten Son!**

## Abraham's Summary

1. **Key verse: (Heb 11:8)**  
***“By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called....”***
2. **Key thought: Obedience**
  - A. **Abraham really knew where the source of life was. Life is in the Father who gave it. Abraham exhibited an obedient faith.**
3. **It is unlikely that the faith of many has been tested to such an extent as Abraham's, but the faith of some have survived similar trials.**
4. **Faith is simply the willingness to trust God, to take Him at His word, to do it “His way.”**
5. **May we all examine our life and remember the warning of Heb 10:38:**

Heb 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.
6. **Let us all profit by reflecting on the faith of Abraham. When trials come, let us be firm in our stand for what we know to be the will of God.**
  - A. **GREAT is the REWARD for faithful service!**

### **Next week:**

**A walk through the “hall of faith,” reflecting on the example of Moses**

