

# The Faith of Abraham

## Introduction

1. It is very encouraging to Christians to look at the faith of others to draw encouragement as we live our day to day lives.
2. One of the famous Bible characters who displayed great faith, who we should strive to emulate is Abraham.
3. This afternoon we will consider Abraham and look at why he was counted to be a faithful servant of almighty God.

## Abraham Believed God

1. God spoke to Abraham, telling him to leave his home and his family and to go into a strange land.
  - A. This was a major decision for Abraham (then called Abram).
  - B. At 75 years of age, to leave the city of Ur and live in tents.
    - 1) There are many members in the Lord's church, who at 75 years of age have "retired" from all spiritual service.
2. Abraham obeyed because He believed God.  
**Hebrews 11:8-10**
  - A. Abraham had developed a personal relationship with God. He was called "the friend of God."

James 2:23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "*Abraham believed God, and it was accounted for righteousness.*" And he was called the friend of God.

### **3. God has spoken to us today through His Son**

Hebrews 1:1-2 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

**A. Through daily study of the Scriptures our faith grows stronger (Romans 10:17).**

**1) We, too, can have a personal relationship with Him.**

### **Promises Are Real**

**1. Faith in viewing God's promises should be as reality!**

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

**2. Abraham looked for a heavenly city because he viewed God's promises as an absolute reality.**

Hebrews 11:9-10 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

**A. Jesus promised that we will one day have a home with Him if we remain faithful**

**John 14:1-3**

**1) We should always view His promises as reality!**

## Obedient Faith

1. **Abraham obeyed God by traveling 600 miles from Ur. God then told him that his off-spring would be as numerable as the stars.**

A. **Abraham believed God and it is recorded:**

Genesis 15:6 .....and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

2. **Isaac was born when Abraham was 100 years old. Yet, God told him to offer his only son on Mt. Moriah.**

A. **Did this destroy Abraham's faith? NO!**

1) **He reasoned that God could raise his son from the dead. He was ready to obey, and then God provided a ram as a sacrifice.**

B. **This experience confirmed Abraham's faith. His faith was made complete by obedience.**

James 2:22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?

3. **As Abraham obeyed by faith, so we must obey by faith.**

A. **The expressions "simply believe" and "only believe" are not found in the Bible.**

B. **The concept of "faith only" is contrary to the Scriptures.**

James 2:24 You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

4. **Our true and abiding faith in God will lead us to repent of our sins, confess Jesus as the Son of God, and be baptized by His authority for the forgiveness of sins.**

**Mark 16:16**

**Acts 2:38**

**Galatians 3:26-27**

## **Faith Is The Victory!**

### **1. Overcoming the world day by day begins with accepting Christ as Lord.**

1 John 5:4-5 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

**A. The faith that saves is the same obedient faith that we live by.**

**B. It is absolutely essential:**

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

### **2. As Abraham did not seek to earn God's blessings, so we do not seek to earn nor merit salvation.**

**1) We receive God's free gift through faith.**

**2) As Abraham believed God and received God's blessings because his faith was made complete by obedience, so our faith is made complete by obedience.**

## Faith For The Future

1. **Abraham faced the future with faith.**
  - A. **He lived with uncertainty, but viewed God’s promises as certain.**
  - B. **He faced hostility, but is remembered for his hospitality.**
2. **In faith, he bought a tomb for his wife, Sarah, in the land God would give his heirs.**
3. **In faith, he sought a believing wife for his son Isaac.**
  - A. **He enjoyed wealth, without making wealth his god.**
  - B. **He lived as a stranger in a land his descendants would possess, because he looked for a heavenly city.**

## Conclusion

1. **Faith enables us to face difficult day to day problems and their consequences, while viewing God’s promises as a reality!**
2. **With faith we can look for a city whose builder and maker is God!**

## Invitation

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 Richard Thetford, October 2009 (Based on a 1992 tract by Robert L. Schales)