

# Outline - Faith for Today and Tomorrow

## Hebrews 11:8–16

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### **Big Idea**

**Biblical faith follows God, trusts God, and ultimately desires God above all else.**

## **Introduction: What Is Faith?**

### **Cultural Definitions of Faith**

- An irrational leap into the unknown.
- Positive thinking or optimism.
- A tool for obtaining miracles.

### **Biblical Definition of Faith**

- The only lifestyle approved by God.
- The response of trust, obedience, and dependence through which we relate to God.
- Not a means of getting things from God.
- The pathway by which we know God, love God, and follow God.

### **Main Transition**

Abraham's story is not primarily about receiving blessings—it is about learning to treasure God Himself.

## **I. Faith Follows God Hebrews 11:8**

### **A. The Order of Faith**

1. God calls.
2. Abraham obeys.
3. Abraham understands.

**Principle:** Obedience often comes before understanding.

### **B. Faith Trusts the Person, Not the Plan**

- Abraham did not know the destination.
- He knew the God who was leading him.
- Faith is not having all the information.
- Faith is trusting the One who does.

### **C. Faith Obeys Despite Unanswered Questions**

- Faith does not eliminate questions.
- Faith chooses obedience while questions remain.

### **D. Common Areas Where God Calls Us to Obey**

- Forgiveness
- Marriage restoration
- Service in the church
- Evangelism
- Repentance from sinful habits
- Spiritual disciplines

## **E. The Results of Obedience**

### **1. Intimacy with God**

Obedience deepens our relationship with Him.

### **2. Personal Transformation**

Obedience forms godly habits and character.

### **3. Inner Peace**

Obedience produces confidence even in difficult circumstances.

### **4. Purpose and Direction**

Obedience introduces us to God's plan for our lives.

## **Key Question**

**Are you willing to follow God even when you do not understand everything?**

# **II. Faith Trusts God Hebrews 11:9–12**

## **Main Truth**

Faith trusts God's processes, God's power, and God's faithfulness.

## **A. Faith Trusts God's Processes**

- We want results.
- God develops people.
- We want speed.
- God produces maturity.
- We want answers.
- God forms character.

## **Abraham's Example**

- Called at approximately age 75.
- Isaac born around age 100.
- Twenty-five years of waiting.

God's delays are not God's abandonment.

**Patience is prolonged trust.**

James 1:4

## **B. Faith Trusts God's Power**

### **Humanly Impossible Circumstances**

- Sarah was barren.
- Abraham was beyond normal childbearing years.

### **Divine Reality**

When human resources reach their limit, divine resources begin.

## **Important Clarification**

Faith does not force God to act.

Faith helps us recognize what God is already doing and invites us to participate in His purposes.

## **Transformation**

God did not merely give Abraham a son.

God transformed Abraham into the father of many nations.

## **C. Faith Trusts God's Faithfulness**

### **Abraham and Sarah Were Imperfect**

- Sarah laughed.
- Abraham attempted to help God through Hagar.
- Both experienced doubt.

## **Gospel Truth**

The life of faith does not depend on the perfection of our trust.

It depends on the perfection of God's faithfulness.

## **Hebrews 11:11**

Sarah considered God faithful.

## **Biblical Examples**

- Peter sank, but Jesus held him.
- Elijah collapsed, but God restored him.
- Abraham doubted, but God remained faithful.

## **Key Question**

**Are you learning to trust a perfectly faithful God?**

## **III. Faith Desires God Hebrews 11:13–16**

### **Main Truth**

Mature faith desires God Himself above His gifts.

### **A. The Patriarchs Desired More Than Blessings**

Their greatest longing was not:

- Land
- Prosperity
- Security

Their greatest longing was:

- God Himself

### **Mature Faith**

Faith does not use God as a means to another end.

Faith discovers that God is the treasure.

## **B. Biblical Examples of God as the Greatest Treasure**

### **Moses**

"If your presence will not go with me..." (Exodus 33:15)

### **David**

"Whom have I in heaven but you?" (Psalm 73:25)

### **Paul**

"I count everything as loss..." (Philippians 3:8)

### **Personal Reflection**

Would you choose God's presence over His gifts?

## **C. The Pilgrim Mindset**

### **What Pilgrims Understand**

This world cannot satisfy the deepest longing of the human heart.

### **Therefore:**

- Enjoy blessings without idolizing them.
- Manage resources without being enslaved by them.
- Love life without clinging to it.
- Serve faithfully while remembering your true citizenship.

### **Hebrews 11:16**

They desired a better country—a heavenly one.

### **Ultimate Goal of Redemption**

Not merely getting us to heaven.

But reconciling us to God.

### **The Greatest Reward**

"God is not ashamed to be called their God."

## **D. Living as Pilgrims Today**

### **We Work**

But work is not our identity.

### **We Enjoy Blessings**

But they are not our hope.

### **We Love Family**

But they are not our ultimate treasure.

### **We Serve Our City**

But our citizenship belongs to God's Kingdom.

## **E. Two Invisible Realities Faith Trusts**

### **1. God's Invisible Intervention in the Present**

- God is always working.

- Even when we cannot see it.
- John 5:17

## **2. God's Invisible Provision for the Future**

- The patriarchs died without seeing complete fulfillment.
- Yet they died in peace.
- Their future was secure in God's hands.

### **Key Question**

**Have you discovered that Jesus Himself is your greatest reward?**

# **Conclusion**

## **Faith Is Ultimately About God**

Because Abraham found God:

- He obeyed when he did not understand.
- He waited when circumstances seemed impossible.
- He lived as a pilgrim in this world.

## **Central Message**

**Jesus is our greatest reward.**

**Jesus is our greatest treasure.**

**Jesus is better.**