
“FAITH WAITS”

THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM

HEBREWS 11:8-19

SERIES: “REAL FAITH IN AN UNREAL WORLD” (5)

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Introduction

We come to arguably one of the more difficult aspects of faith, namely ‘waiting on the Lord’. Many times it is a joy to see God answer prayer immediately, but there are times when we need to wait for God’s future grace.

A story of faith

Abraham’s faith described:

- Genesis 12-25
- In prayer: Nehemiah 9:7-8
- Romans 4:3; Galatians 3:6-9
- James 2:23

Recap:

- Faith WORSHIPS – Abel brought an authentic offering, recognizing he was a sinner in need of God’s mercy and grace.
- Faith WALKS – Enoch’s faith was based on an intimate relationship with God.
- Faith WORKS – Noah EXPRESSED his faith by building an ark, which pictures the salvation we have in Christ.

Faith Waits on God

Hebrews 11:8-19

“God is looking for people through whom he can DO the impossible. What a pity we plan to do only things that we can do by ourselves.” -- AW Tozer

God is raising up Christians who will WAIT on Him for great things....

those who, in the words of Daniel 11:32 *“know their God and do GREAT EXPOLITS for God.”* Are you that person?

But WAITING is one of the most difficult spiritual exercises /disciplines you may ever face!

The MARK of WAITING FAITH is OBEDIENCE!!

It is not WHAT you BELIEVE that separates you as a Christian; it’s what you can OBEY that separates you from the crowd.

1. Abraham obeyed even when he did not know WHERE he was going. (v8-10)

Genesis 12:1-4(a)

Abraham went out and camped out – he was a sojourner

Abraham focused on eternity – v10

“Abraham gave up a city whose architect was man, for a city whose architect was God.”

The story of pioneer missionary Henry Morrison

What you focus on will define who you are today.

If you focus on the heavenly city – eternity – nothing on earth will be able to hold you.

2. Abraham obeyed even when he did not know HOW God's will would be accomplished (v11-12)

How did Abraham come to EXERCISE his faith in the way he did?
He WEIGHED the human impossibility of becoming a father against the divine impossibility of God being able to break his word and decided that since God is God, nothing is impossible. In the words of Hebrews 11:6, he believed that..... "God is, and that He is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

Optimism

3. Abraham obeyed even when he did not know WHEN God would fulfill His promises (v13-16)

The important thing is not what we live ON, but what we are looking FOR.

By faith, Abraham saw the unseen, and in hope lived in the future.

Faith makes us pilgrims here on earth

To every question, " 'What shall this man do?' Christ's answer is, 'What is that to you? Follow me.'"

4. Abraham obeyed even though he did not know WHY God was so working (v17-19)

How can you wait on God?

1. Faith's first step is obedience (v8)
2. Faith's focus is eternity (v10)

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

3. Faith's fruitfulness: consider the Lord faithful (v11-12)

How do we SURRENDER to the Lord?

Surrender involves:

1. A PERSON – Jesus Christ.
Galatians 2:20
2. PERFORMANCE: obedience.
3. A PATTERN: abide in Christ (John 15:5).
4. A PLACE: a heavenly focus.
5. A PROMISE: cling to the truths of God's Word.
6. PERSEVERANCE: live the life of faith!

God's PERFECT timing: Hebrews 4:16 (see Amplified)

- **Present tense:** emphasizes the PRIVILEGE that help is ALWAYS AVAILABLE
- **Description:** reminds us that God's throne is CHARACTERISED by grace
- **Action:** informs us that we are the RECEIPIENTS of God's grace
- **Timing: it is WELL TIMED grace**

Literally: *"Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may find grace for a **well-timed** help."*

Faith WAITS!!