

HEBREWS 11:8–22

FIRST DAY: Introduction

Faith in God, His Word, and His work is able to accomplish amazing things in and through our lives. It all begins with simply believing that God is all He said He is, has done all He said He would, and will do all He has promised. As this seedling of faith takes root in our hearts, it is able to grow into a substantial and fruitful tree of faith.

In our study this week in Hebrews, we will look at the miraculous lives of the patriarchs of Israel. They chose to believe God and His Word and act on it. The result was that their ordinary lives turned extraordinary and they became a blessing to many.

In the same way, when we choose to believe God and act upon His Word, our ordinary lives are infused with the extraordinary promises and work of God.

Ask God to cause faith to be deeply rooted in your heart.

SECOND DAY: Read Hebrews 11:8–10

1. The author continued his discourse on the faith of the Old Testament saints by highlighting the testimony of Abraham. What did Abraham do *by faith*? Hebrews 11:8a

a. Read Genesis 12:1–3 and summarize Abraham's call and the promises from God.

(1) Why do you think obedience to such a call would require *faith*?

b. From Hebrews 11:8b, what do you find remarkable about the way Abraham *went out*?

(1) Link this with 2 Corinthians 5:7 and share your thoughts.

2. After Abraham arrived in the land God promised him, what did he do *by faith*? Hebrews 11:9

a. The NLT says, *He was like a foreigner, living in tents. And so did Isaac and Jacob, who inherited the same promise.* Considering God's promise to give them the land, why was this noteworthy?

3. According to Hebrews 11:10 (NLT), the reason Abraham dwelt in the land as a foreigner *was that he was confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built by God.* How does this speak to you concerning:

a. Abraham's faith

b. Abraham's perspective

c. Use the following Scriptures to comment on this perspective of faith:

(1) Philippians 3:20

(2) Colossians 3:1–2

4. What aspect of Abraham's faith speaks the loudest to you?

THIRD DAY: Read Hebrews 11:11–12

1. The author then turned to the testimony of Abraham's wife, Sarah. According to Hebrews 11:11a, what did Sarah do *by faith*?
 - a. Link this with the account in Genesis 18:10–14, 21:1–7 and note your observations.

2. According to Hebrews 11:11b, why was Sarah able to do this?
 - a. Notice that the word *judged* translated from Greek means *thoughtfully considered*. Why is our thoughtful consideration of God's character so essential to our faith?

3. In the book of Romans, Paul underscored the fact that Abraham and Sarah believed God in a humanly impossible situation. Choose phrases from Romans 4:17–21 that highlight:

a. Their impossible situation (verses 17–18)

b. The growing faith of Abraham and Sarah (verses 18–20)

c. The power of God (verses 17, 21)

(1) Which of these phrases most ministers to you in your present circumstances?

4. From Hebrews 11:12 note and comment on the fruit of Abraham and Sarah's faith.
 - a. Considering the *innumerable* descendants of Abraham and Sarah, remark on the far-reaching fruit of faith.

5. Although Sarah initially laughed at the news she would have a son (Genesis 18:11–14), she is included here in Hebrews 11 as a woman of *faith* in the eyes of God. How does this speak to you?

FOURTH DAY: Read Hebrews 11:13–16

1. According to Hebrews 11:13, these saints *all died in faith* without seeing God's *promises* concerning the Messiah. Yet, *having seen them afar off*, they responded in three ways. List and comment on the ways they responded in faith:

a.

b.

c.

(1) What does this convey to you about your response to God's promises?

(2) What did Abraham and Sarah's faith move them to confess?

(a) Link the effect of this confession with Psalm 84:5–7. What effect do you desire faith to have in your life?

(b) According to 1 Peter 2:11, what is necessary to maintain this perspective?

2. Hebrews 11:14 (NLT) says, *Obviously people who say such things are looking forward to a country they can call their own.* That being the case, what did they have *opportunity* to do? Hebrews 11:15

a. Recall that the writer of Hebrews wrote this epistle to believers who were in jeopardy of leaving their hope in Jesus to return to the Mosaic system. Use the following Scriptures to remark on the folly of doing this:

(1) Luke 9:62

(2) Hebrews 10:38

3. Although they had *opportunity*, these believers did not turn back to their former *country*. Use Hebrews 11:16 to note and comment on:

a. Their *desire* (verse 16a)

b. God's response (verse 16b)

(1) Link this with John 14:2–3 and share your thoughts.

4. Jesus is the fulfillment of the promises that these saints only saw *afar off*. How does this increase your responsibility to live as pilgrims in this world?

FIFTH DAY: Read Hebrews 11:17–22

1. The author resumed his description of the faith of Abraham and the other patriarchs. According to Hebrews 11:17, what did Abraham do *by faith*?
 - a. Observe that Abraham had received *promises* concerning his son Isaac. Use Genesis 17:19 and Hebrews 11:18 to record these *promises*.

(1) Why is it so extraordinary that Abraham *offered up his only begotten son*? See also John 3:16.

2. Read Hebrews 11:19 (NLT): *Abraham reasoned that if Isaac died, God was able to bring him back to life again. And in a sense, Abraham did receive his son back from the dead.* What does this reveal to you about Abraham's faith?

3. Pastor David Guzik says, *When Abraham was confronted with a promise and a command from God which seemed to contradict each other, he did what we all should do: he obeyed the command and let God take care of the promise.*¹⁶ Share a way you can apply Abraham’s example to your life.

4. Use Hebrews 11:20–22 to fill in the chart below concerning the faith of the following patriarchs:

HEBREWS 11:20–22	WHAT THEY DID BY FAITH	READ THEIR STORY	YOUR TAKEAWAY
<i>Isaac</i>		Genesis 27:27–33, 38–40	
<i>Jacob</i>		Genesis 48:2–5, 16, 20	
<i>Joseph</i>		Genesis 50:24–25; Exodus 13:19; Joshua 24:32	

- a. Observe that each of these men passed down the promises of God by *faith* to the next generation. How does this speak to you?

5. From your study today, which testimony of *faith* resonates with you the most?

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. Charles Spurgeon said, *The Holy Spirit in this chapter selects out of good men's lives the most brilliant instances of their faith.*¹⁷ From your study this week, record how each of the following demonstrated faith:
 - a. Abraham

b. Sarah

c. Isaac

d. Jacob

e. Joseph

2. In response to your study this week, what stands out to you about the way *Our Great Faith* extraordinarily affected ordinary believers?