

## TRUE FAITH CHOOSES TO OBEY!

Hebrews 11:1-12

INTRODUCTION: True faith chooses to obey, it does not think it has a better plan than God's plan: 1 Samuel 15:2-3; 1 Samuel 15:7-9; 1 Samuel 15:13-26. From these verses and many like them we learn that partial obedience is total disobedience. In the great faith chapter of the Bible we learn about men and women of true faith that chose to obey God: Hebrews 11:8-9; why did Abraham live in tents? Hebrews 11:10; Hebrews 8:17. The Bible make it very clear that our faith is important to our God: 2 Corinthians 5:7; Matthew 8:5-10. Abraham is honored by three great faiths of this world today as an example of a man living by faith.

### I. THE FAILURES OF A MAN OF FAITH!

In Hebrews 11 the Bible reports no sin in Abraham's life, however in the Old Testament we see a slightly different account of the life of the man of faith. Genesis 12:1; Genesis 11:31-12:4. There were two things that Abraham did that were wrong here: first there was incomplete obedience to God's clear command and second, there was imperfect dependence on God: Genesis 12:10-11. Abraham walked by reason and not by revelation: Proverbs 3:5-6. Third, there was imperfect honesty: Genesis 12:12-13: Abraham although the friend of God was just like us.

### II. THE FOLLY OF AN IMPATIENT MAN!

Abraham was also an impatient man: Genesis 15:1-6. Abraham was saved by believing in the promise of God. Sarai is now 90 years old in Genesis 16:1-4. Sarai's idea was not God's plan or God's way and it caused trouble that has lasted until this very day. The Bible tells us there is a trust element to faith but there is also a time element to faith. Genesis 12:10-12: when we get impatient and get ahead of God we are very foolish. Our God is never late, He is always right on time: Hebrews 6:12-15. Faith and patience are important to our God: Psalm 37:3-5.

### III. THE FAITH OF A MATURING MAN!

We have seen in Abraham's life the failure of an imperfect man, and the foolishness of an impatient man, but now we will see the faith of a maturing man. Biblical faith obeys: Hebrews 11:8; Hebrews 11:9-10. Abraham's faith satisfied him: Hebrews 11:17-18. There is an element of separation of faith from a system of living that has its foundation on the ways of this world. Separation to God brings us to something that only our God can give us: a life of joy, peace, victory, and faith. God's grace sets us free to live for Him: John 8:34-36. As Abraham grew in his faith in his God he was called to make a sacrifice of faith: Abraham was called to sacrifice the son of promise. He went to were modern day Jerusalem is located, to Mount Moriah which is where Calvary is; they went to Golgotha were Jesus would later die on the cross and Abraham built an altar to sacrifice to God his most treasured gift from God. Hebrews 11:17-19. Abraham grew in his faith to the point where he so trusted the promises of God that he believed with all his heart that God could raise Isaac from the dead. We rejoice when Jehovah Jireh provides what seems to be impossible. Jesus died on the cross not only so we could go to heaven, but that we could enjoy the trip through life knowing that the victory of walking with Him we cannot be defeated: Romans 8:35-39.