

Faith's Journey *Hebrews 11:8-19*

"There are only two ways to live. One way, by far the most common, is to live by sight, to base everything on what you can see. This is the empirical way. The other way, far less common, is to live by faith, to base your life primarily and ultimately on what you cannot see. The Christian way, of course, is the faith way. We have never seen God, or Jesus Christ, or heaven, or hell, or the Holy Spirit. We have never seen any of the people who wrote the Bible or an original manuscript of the Bible. Though we see the results of them, we have never seen any of the virtues that God commands or any of the graces that He gives. Yet we live in the conviction of all these things by faith. We bank our earthly lives and our eternal destiny on things which we have never seen. That's the way the people of God have always lived." MacArthur

- I. The one thing we have in common with the men and women of Hebrews 11 is that we too have been called to live by faith. When we were saved, we entered a faith-based relationship with Christ that is to be developed if we wish to grow in our relationship with Him. The saints who did not shrink back in living their faith in Hebrews 11 were ordinary men and women who loved God more than themselves. In other words, they lived a surrendered life before Him. Many believers really don't want to live a surrendered life that requires them to pick up their cross daily and follow him. There's always something holding them back. There were things that held the saints of old back too, but at some point, their love for God overrode their love for self.

Heb. 11:1-2

Heb. 10:37-38

Luke 9:23-24

"The deep dealing of God with His children varies in detail but the general pattern seems much alike for individual cases. Into each life there arises an awareness of failure, a falling short of all that one should be in the Lord; then there is a definite meeting with the risen Savior in utter surrender of heart, which is indeed death to self. There follows an appropriation by faith of His resurrection life through the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit. As a result there is realized an overflow of life likened by the Lord Jesus to 'rivers of water.'" (They Found the Secret, Raymond Edman)

John 7:37-39 37 On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." 39 By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

- II. Abraham's response to God's call on his life was based on trust and a willingness to go where God wanted him to go. His life at the age of 75 set him on a journey that would take him far from anything that would hinder the Lord from fulfilling his good, pleasing, and perfect will through him. His obedient pilgrimage of faith took him to places that deepened his love for and dependence on God. Our pilgrimage, though under different circumstances, is no different. We are on a faith journey that will take us to the city of God, our home. It is to be our focus as we travel through this foreign land as aliens and strangers. That is why we are commanded to seek and set our mind on things above. It is our duty and responsibility to do so knowing that *the world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever (1Jn. 2:16)*.

Heb. 11:8-16
Joshua 24:1-3
2 cor. 5:17
Eph. 3:20

Colossians 3:1-3 *If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*

- III. Abraham's faith was tested to prove and purify it for his benefit. His willingness to obey and do what was asked, even if it didn't make sense, was rewarded with a deeper faith that revealed to him that God would be the one who would provide a sacrifice to save his son Isaac. It not only strengthened Abraham's faith, but it also deepened his understanding of the faithfulness of God. Like Abraham, our faith is being tested on an almost continuous basis. Every day we wake up to a trust relationship with Christ that requires us to put into practice our faith in Him throughout the day. When we do that, we please God and he'll richly reward us for it (Heb. 1:6).

Heb. 11:17-19
Gen. 22:1-14

Yahweh-Yireh = *The Lord will provide.* (Gen. 22:14)

James 1:2-4 *Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,[a] whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*