

## HEBREWS CHAPTER 11 – HEROES OF FAITH

### LESSON #7

#### ABRAHAM

##### HEBREWS 11:8-12

*“By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.*

##### And Hebrews 11:17-19

*“By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called,” concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.”*

#### INTRODUCTION

No ancient figure is held in such high favor by such a large proportion of the human race as the man Abraham. Jews, Christians and Mohammedans revere Abraham. The Bible is replete with references to this great servant of the Lord – he is mentioned 232 times, second to Moses who is mentioned 850 times.

- Abraham was called by God Himself "*the father of all them that believe*" as Rom. 4:11 tells us;
- In Heb. 11, one verse only is given to the biographies of Abel, Enoch, Noah, but to Abraham and Sarah 8 verses are specifically given which summarize some fourteen chapters in the Book of Genesis;
- Jesus confirms that there really was a man named Abraham in John 8:56-58.
- Archaeologists have acknowledged the historicity of the early chapters of the Bible, and now we know that Chaldea was a highly civilized land where commerce and agriculture were highly developed and where there was a high standard of culture and learning. Ur, in the Chaldean region of Iraq, was Abraham's native city in southern Mesopotamia; an important metropolis of the ancient world situated on the Euphrates River. It was strategically situated about halfway between the head of the Persian Gulf and Baghdad, in Iraq.
- We also know from many sources that the people of Chaldea were idolaters, unbelievers, and that they worshipped many false gods, including the sun, the moon and the stars; and as is always the case where God is not known and loved, the people of Chaldea lived lives which were degraded and morally bad.

**GENESIS 12:1-9**

*“Now the LORD had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of Canaan. Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, as far as the terebinth tree of Moreh. And the Canaanites were then in the land. Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your descendants I will give this land.” And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; there he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD. So Abram journeyed, going on still toward the South.”*

**With this background, let us notice several aspects of the trust and obedience of faith as illustrated in this particular period of Abraham's life:**

**I. ABRAHAM'S TRUST.**

*“By faith Abraham obeyed....”* (Heb 11:8)

If we will not trust we will not obey. Obedience is the supreme proof of one's trust in God. It is not talk but trust that God wants to see.

**A. He Trusted God For The Plan For His Life:** *“obeyed when he was called.”* God has a plan for each life He created. That is **The Vocational will of God.**

**B. He Trusted God For The Place For His Life:** *“go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance.”* That is **The Geographical will of God.** Are you in it?

**C. He Trusted God For The Progress For His Life:** *“not knowing where.”* That is **The Providential will of God.** He did not know God's ultimate purpose for his life at that time.

**ILLUST.** The Ultimate Umbrella. When we accept the Vocational will of God for our lives and are in the Geographical will of God for our lives we are under God's Providential protective umbrella!

**II. ABRAHAM'S TRAIL.**

*“And he went out, not knowing where he was going.”*(Heb.11:9)

In Gen. 12 we notice the progressiveness of Abraham's faith:

v.4 *“Abraham departed..”* / v.5 *“Abraham went forth...”* / v.6 *“Abraham passed through”* / v.8 *“Abraham removed....”* / v.9 *“Abraham journeyed....”*

Faith is active, not static, when pursuing the will of God.

- A. His Faith Was Rewarded.** *“By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country,”* It was the land of plenty for it *“flowed with milk and honey.”* (Deut.6:3)
- B. His Family Was Blessed.** *“dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;”* Our faith or lack thereof impacts our families.
- C. His Focus Was Forward.** *“for he waited for the city which has foundation whose builder and maker is God.”* Faith is forward looking.  
     “Onward and never back,  
     I press the forward track;  
     The joy I shall not lack,  
     At the break of day.”

Abraham’s trust put him on the right trail and so will our unqualified trust.

### III. **ABRAHAM’S TEST.**

***“By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac.... concluding that God was able to raise him up.”*** (Heb 11:17-19 )

#### **A. The Severity Of The Test.**

v.17 - *“offered up Isaac ....and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son.”* - v.18 *“of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called.....”*

God had promised Abraham that He would give him a son and would make an everlasting covenant with him. Now, Abraham is asked to offer his son Isaac on an altar!

Here are God’s actual words: *“Then God said: “Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him.”* (Gen.17:19)

Isaac was the son of promise and through him Abraham’s lineage was to be perpetuated. Now, God was asking Abraham to offer Isaac as a sacrifice. What a severe test of faith!

#### **B. The Strength Of His Faith.**

v.19 *“concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.”* He believed in the resurrection!

### **SUMMATION**

Abraham is a great example of one who operated on the principle of faith, even though there were lapses in his faith walk, which only proves that he was human.

We learn that where God guides, He provides; when God ordains, He sustains; those who stand the tests will be blessed!

*I Peter 1:6-8 "... now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love."*

## CONCLUSION

Abraham was 175 years old when he died: *"And these are the days of the years of Abraham's life which he lived, an hundred threescore and fifteen years. Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years; and was gathered to his people."* (Gen 25:7-8)

### Heb 11:13-16

*"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them."*

***"Keep moving to your new address!*** What keeps you traveling when you are tempted to give up on God and retreat to a fallback position? What keeps you standing and moving forward when you want to sit down and rest? The author of Hebrews celebrates Abraham's faith as a seizure of a future that was guaranteed by God. Abraham lived confidently in the face of the unknown. It all boils down to trust and obedience: a trust in God's promised future and an obedience to his call that leaves behind the predictability and comfort of our status quo. This quality of trust interprets and guides one's life in light of eternity. How does your vision of a promised future shape your daily travels?" (Pastor Michael Jennings)

***"WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE GOD"***

Hebrews 11:6

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