

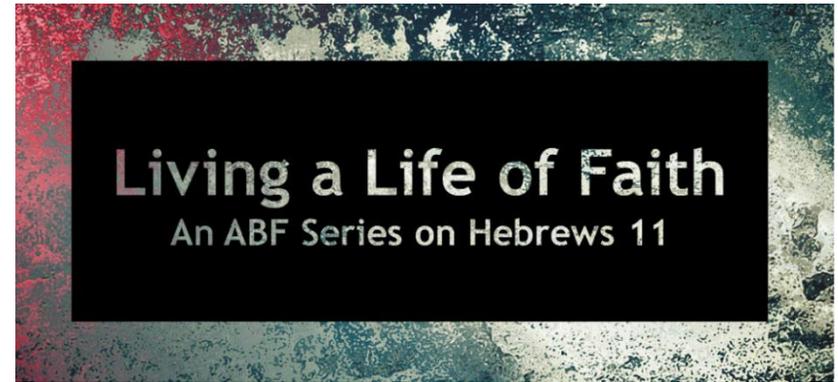


Abraham: A Life That Doesn't Live by Sight

Have you ever been in a confusing situation and wondered, “Why is God doing this?” Our faith is often challenged because **God asks us to do something that seems impossibly hard**, because **God keeps us in situations longer than we think is right**, and because **God would have to do the impossible to fulfill his promises to us**. Abraham and Sarah faced all of these situations, and in each one they responded in faith.

Abraham's Initial Obedience (v. 8)

- The _____ of Abraham's faith. Abraham is presented in the New Testament as the premier example of faith (Romans 4, Galatians 3:6-9, James 2:21-24). He is the first person the Old Testament specifically mentions having faith (Genesis 15:4-6).
- The _____ of Abraham's faith. The passage is very clear that it was **while** Abraham was being called that he obeyed. He didn't hang around and deliberate to decide if this was something he should do or not, he obeyed God no questions asked (cf. a similar response on the part of Abraham in Genesis 22:1-3).



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- The _____ of Abraham's faith God didn't make clear to Abraham where he was going to end up. God expected Abraham to trust him even when he didn't understand all the details, and Abraham responded in faith!

Abraham's Continuing Obedience (v. 9-10)

- Abraham's delayed _____ By the time Abraham died, he only had one piece of property (Genesis 23). He never received the land that God had promised would one day belong to his family. The author of Hebrews points out this uncomfortable truth to us in three ways:
 - Abraham is described as sojourning/living as an alien
 - The promised land is described as a _____ land
 - Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob all lived in _____
- Abraham's ultimate _____ Ultimately, Abraham persevered because his hope was in another city, a theme the author will later expand on (vv. 13-16).

Sarah's Eventual Obedience (v 11-12)

- The _____ of Sarah's faith God had literally promised the impossible, promising that two people would have children who were too old to have children.
- The _____ of Sarah's faith We learn from reading Genesis that Sarah actually responded initially with doubt (Genesis 18:9-15). Apparently, however, she came to a point of faith, and God recognized her for that.
- The _____ for Sarah's faith Sarah was able to have the faith she did because she trusted the character of God. Sarah "considered him faithful who had promised."

- The _____ of Abraham's faith God didn't make clear to Abraham where he was going to end up. God expected Abraham to trust him even when he didn't understand all the details, and Abraham responded in faith!

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