

Living a Life of Faith

An ABF Series on Hebrews 11

Lesson 5 – Abraham: A Life That Lives for Eternity

Have you ever been out of the country? If you have, no doubt you had an exciting time, but by the time the trip was over you were ready to go home. There's something special and comforting about coming home. Abraham never went home. He left Ur of the Chaldees and wandered around in the promised land, as in a foreign country (11:9). He and his sons lived in tents, never fully receiving everything he had been promised by God, because Abraham realized that Ur wasn't his home. New Jerusalem and an eternity spent with God, that was home.

The Problem of Faith (v. 13)

- **Does God _____ His promises?**
Twice 6:12-20 says that Abraham and others inherited the promises God gave to them (6:12, 15). Later in 11:17 the author again states that Abraham had obtained the promise. But in 11:13 we read that Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, and Jacob did **not** receive the promise. So which is it? Did Abraham receive the promise or didn't he?
- **So _____ did Abraham _____ receive the promise?**
In Genesis 12:1-3 and 15:4-6 God promised Abraham 3 things:
 - The _____ of Palestine
 - A nation from his _____ with Sarah
 - A _____ for all peoples

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Some of those promises Abraham received in his lifetime, and other ones he didn't. When Abraham died, he had his son whom God had promised, through whom would come the nation and eventually worldwide blessing through Christ. But hadn't yet possessed the land that was promised him.

The Perspective of Faith (vv. 13b-16a)

- **Faith treats the _____ promises as _____ realities**
Three words to describe how these Old Testament characters interacted with God's promises: They *saw* the them from afar, *greeted* them, and *confessed* that the world was not their home.
- **Faith realizes that this world is not our _____**
These people weren't citizens of any country, which is intended to be a picture of all of us (cf. Phil 3:20).
- **Faith desires something _____**
These men and women did not live as they did because they didn't enjoy or want rewards or pleasure. Actually, they lived this way because they wanted more than what the world had to offer (cf. 11:24-26).

The Prize for Faith

- **God _____ those who live for Him**
God is not ashamed to be called the God of those who confess themselves to be strangers. Although God is at times embarrassed to claim His people (Luke 9:26). Yet those who live for eternity have the privilege of God being proud to be called "their God."
- **God is preparing a _____ for those who live for Him**
God is preparing an actual, literal city (Revelation 21-22) that Abraham apparently was aware of and sought after (11:10). God eternally rewards those who will in faith continue believing him until their death even if in their life they don't see how God has fulfilled all His promises.

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