

## The Faith of Abraham, Part Three (Hebrews 11:6–16)

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### Introduction

1. Review: True faith is—
  - a. *Future* oriented or *hope* based (v. 13; Luke 10:4).
  - b. Always *seeking* God, making the seeker a pilgrim and a stranger (vv. 13b, 14).
  - c. due to the promised reward—a better and heavenly country (vv. 15, 16a).
  - d. *Pleasing* to God (v. 16b).
2. Genesis 11:27–12:8
  - a. Abraham's origin—Ur of Chaldees
  - b. Abraham's call (12:1; comp. Acts 7:1–8).
  - c. Abraham's obedience (12:4, 5).
3. The quality of Abraham's faith (Gen. 12:2, 3)
  - a. His partial obedience shows that God's promise was a gracious work based on His sovereign purpose, not Abraham's understanding or performance.
  - b. His faith, as ours must be, was tested and proven through circumstances in order for it to grow and thrive (the *righteousness* of faith; Rom. 4:13–22).

### I. Sojourning Faith

1. The journeys of Abraham (Gen. 12:6–9)
  - a. His stop in Shechem (*shoulder*) at the Terebinth of Moreh (*teaching*; vv. 6, 7)
  - b. His stop in the hill country, between Bethel (*house of God*) and Hai (*heap of ruin*; v. 8), the place of decision
  - c. His progress further south and west into the Negeb (*parched*; v. 9), where he was about to be tested
2. The altars of Abraham: the *worship* of faith
  - a. Abraham worshiped *Yahweh* (the God of the Covenant who appeared to him; v. 7).
  - b. Abraham worshiped *Yahweh*, calling on His *name* (v. 8). Calling upon *Yahweh's* name means putting one's confidence in what is revealed based on understanding of His Word and character (preparation for chapters 15 and 17).

### II. A Taste of God

1. Hebrews 11:13 presents an astonishing truth.

Those believing God died *without* receiving what was promised them. Would that not cause one to stop trusting God's promise?
2. Why did Abraham continue to trust God even when he did not receive what was promised?
  - a. Abraham tasted the glory of who God was.
  - b. True faith apprehends the person of God and finds possessing Him far greater than anything He might promise.
  - c. Had Abraham focused only on whether he did or didn't get the inheritance, he would not have demonstrated true faith.

3. True faith described in vv. 13–16

- a. What was promised pertained to something far greater that could not be immediately realized (v. 13).
- b. True faith seeks what is real, permanent, and lasting (vv. 14, 16).
- c. True faith abandons the former temporal things of this world, even if the present circumstances are less desirable (v. 15).

**What This Means for Us**

1. Faith is a gift of God because we believe only as He reveals His person and purpose to us (Eph. 2:8–10).
2. That faith must be tested to reveal its authenticity; therefore, faith strengthens as God proves Himself in our failures.
3. God takes us on our journey of faith without revealing much to us at all so that we may learn to trust Him in every circumstance.