

Title: Abraham and Sarah and their Faith

Text" Hebrews 11:11-16 (11-12)

Our topic is : LIVING BY FAITH. And we are leaning how to live by faith though the the great examples found in Hebrews chapter 11.

So, take your Bibles and turn to the most Kosher book in the New Testament. The book of Hebrews chaptre 11. Hebrews chapter 11 beginning, tonight, with Vs 11.

(Read Hebrews 11:11-16)

(Gen 12:1-3)

(PRAYER)

() Now, we are looking at the faith of Abraham. And last time together we saw his faith in his obedience to God's Word. God told him to leave his land, and his family, and go to a land he had never heard of befor. He believed God's word and he went to a new land....

(2') Now, the second way that we want to see the example of Abraham is in the main obstacle he faced in believing God's plan.

And there are two things that I want you to see here, *in verses 11 and 12,*
~~Concerning~~ *Concerning* this obstacle that faced Abraham, It was an obvious problem since Abraham's ^{was} 100 years old and Sarah, his wife, is 90. And God says "you are going to have a baby." And you remember what happens. Sarah just breaks up laughing. And God said.. "That's great. Call the boy Issac." Issac means "laughter". God's little jok on Abraham and Sarah. Call him laughter since you laughed and didn't think it would happen.

But, the neat thing about this passage is that Sarah recovered from that. Which the book of Genesis does not tell us. Sarah, herself, finally had faith.

Many people say. "Oh, no. it is Abraham that had faith. But Hebrews clears that ~~up~~. Here we see the faith of Sarah. She believed God. They were both bareen. They couldn't have children. So, there are two things about this obstacle that hit a note in my mind. *(Read Promise made to Abal - Gen 12)*

2/22
(1) Number one, it involved the ability of Abraham and Sarah to have a child ~~in~~ their age in life. Do you know when I really get tested in my faith? It is when I see that my ability is not up to par. That I can't really do it. That I cann't really accomplish it in my own power. And that is when God can move in. Because a lot of the time we are just in the way. *We get in The Way that is all.*

God made Abraham and Sarah believe him. Boy, I will tell you that he made them. Now, how in the world are you going to have seed as great as the sand on a seashore or the stars in the sky, if you haven't even got a child? That is why Sarah got the tremendous idea of useing her handmaid. And old Abraham goes along with the idea. Of course Sarah didn't like it after it happened. And Abraham prayed, "Oh, God, may Ishmael live before thee." And God said, "~~I am afraid not~~ *Sorry about that*. It will happen the way that I promised. And that is that." "Sarah will be the mother of many nations."

ant But, Abraham believed God's Word. And it was getting kind of important because Ishmael is now 13 years old. And Abraham still believed God.

*Hagar
Ishmael*

Now, I believe that Abraham really started believing God at the age of 75 when he really got converted. And you need to read the book of Genesis to find out why that is true. But I believe he got saved at the age of 75. Eleven years later he had Ishmael. And he decided that is the way God was going to fulfill his promise. But then God made him wait another 13 years until he was 99 and then told him, "Hay! guess what? Next year, at this time, Sarah is going to have a baby." And Abraham believed God. But when he told his wife, she just couldn't stand it. And she broke up laughing. She couldn't believe it

Faith is an amazing thing. ^{So Abraham} ~~she~~ he had an obstacle in believing God's plan

And it involved the ability of himself and his wife to have a child ^{Probs Old}
~~Great obstacle - Chael Grant~~
~~interesting thing in vs 11, if you look at that carefully. It says, "By~~
~~faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive." In the margin it~~
~~tells you what that means. It means "the power for the laying down of seed"~~

(2) The second thing that was involved was the acknowledgement of God's power to do what he promised. And according to the end of Vs 11 "Sarah considered him faithful who had promised."

When she finally got her senses back together and stopped laughing, she realized that she had to trust the promise of God. It involves the acknowledgement of God's power to do what he promised.

Now, let's take a person who is interested in receiving Christ as his saviour. One of the important things that you must face is that you cannot save yourself. It is impossible. Your life is as dead as the womb of Sarah. You are dead. The Bible says so. ^{EP 2:1} And you are incapable of saving yourself. That is the number one obstacle that people face. ^{That} ~~that~~ believe that somehow their own goodness, or their deeds, or something they do will make you a Christian. And that is not what the Bible teaches.

If you have saving faith, you realize that your ability is not enough. It's not possible for you to save yourself.

And a second ^{Prins} is that you will acknowledge the power of God to save you. You will believe what God says in his Word. And not be trusting yourself to hold on, or to keeping ^{is} a christina, or to live the life, or what have you.

That is nonsense. When you trust Christ you are trusting his power to save you. Not your power to get saved. It is a very, very important difference.

That is also true of believers. As long as we are trusting our own ability we will never see God's promises fulfilled in our life. I don't care what area it is. We talk about the fruit of the Spirit. It is the Spirit's fruit. Not our self trying to drum it up or design this or plan this in our life. Trying to be more loving or kind or joyful. Oh, No...It is the promise of God's Holy Spirit. And each time we need to exercise Faith, dear friends, ^{there} those two things are involved.

(1) One, is to realize that our ability is not going ^{to} do it.

(2) And secondly to acknowledge that God's power is able to do what ~~its~~ ^{He} has promised.

And when you start believing that, things begin to change in your life. And I find that the number one problem that I face is that I get in the way. My ability gets in the way. Of trusting God's power. And God will let you fall flat on your face to prove the point to you. He really will.

(3) Now, the ~~third~~ way in which we see the example of Abraham is in the real objective that he had. And of course all the Patriarchs had this because it is put in the plural. Verses 13 to 16.

Now, I want to look at this in two ways. And this is really a blessing to me. And I hope it will be to you also.

(1) First of all I want to examine their faith. (2) And secondly I want to examine their future. And this will illustrate their real objective and why they had faith when they never saw God's promise's fulfilled.

(1) First of all, in relation to their faith I want to give you five things.

(1) Number one, they responded to God until the day they died. Vs 13 says.. "All these died in faith, without receiving the promises." They responded to God until the day they died.

(2) The second thing about their faith is that they received no fulfillment of God's promise during their life time. It says simply "without receiving the promises," I wonder if we could keep going on having never seen the

God's fulfillment.