



I. Review

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. Hebrews 11:1-3

Faith is **ACTION**.

Faith is something we all **POSSESS**.

*For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the **measure of faith God has given you.** Romans 12:3*

*And without faith it is **impossible** to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. Hebrews 11:6*

Faith is the **HINGE** that your Christian beliefs swing on – in fact faith is the **HINGE** that life swings on.

II. Great Cloud of Witnesses

***Therefore**, since we are surrounded by such a **great cloud of witnesses**, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Hebrews 12:1*

Faith Lessons from the Heroes:

- a. **Abel** – Living with faith begins by dealing with my **SIN**.
- b. **Enoch** – Faith is a part of **EVERYDAY LIFE**. Continuing to do the right thing in the right direction – faithful living.
- c. **Noah** – Faith was proven in daily **OBEDIENCE** for 100 years.

III. Abraham and Sarah – Faith that travels outside the **COMFORT ZONE**

***By faith Abraham**, even though he was past age—and Sarah herself was barren—was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise. And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.*

By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son,¹⁸ even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned."¹⁹ Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death. Hebrews 11:11-12, 17-19

1. Faith to **RECEIVE** a blessing from God.

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian maidservant named Hagar; so she said to Abram, "The LORD has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my maidservant; perhaps I can build a family through her." Abram agreed to what Sarai said. So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian maidservant Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. He slept with Hagar, and she conceived. When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress. Genesis 16:1-4

The **PATIENCE** of Faith

- The more **URGENT** our request the **LESS TOLERANT** we are of God's timing
- The things that God views as **ESSENTIAL** we seem to have no **SENSE OF URGENCY**.
- The **PROGRESSION** of doubt.
- I believe God **CAN**
- I am not sure why God **DOESN'T**
- I don't think God **WILL**
- God **CAN'T**

2. Faith to trust God with the **BLESSING** He **GIVES** to us.

Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him.⁴ When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him.

Genesis 21:1-4

What about your....

- **BANK ACCOUNT**
- The **HOUSES** you own
- The **CAR YOU DRIVE**
- The **ATHLETIC ABILITY** you possess
- The **RETIREMENT ACCOUNT** you have built