



Hebrews 11:8-10

By Faith Abraham Humbly Obeyed Sun, Oct 19th 2008

Put before you a quote to ponder as we begin this morning

- A person who lives right, and is right, has more power in his silence than another has by words. - Phillips Brooks (1835–1893)
- Think about that for just a moment

Examples are so Helpful – in every aspect of life

- Math homework, English papers, computer guides, etc

Examples are Powerful

Examples are Effective. Or they are meant to be - imitated, followed

- That is the point right?

As we rejoin our study in Hebrews 11...want to remind you – these are examples

- God is talking to us about faith – giving us examples
- Faith is key – only ones right with God, only ones pleasing to God
- Like walking through a museum – real, has, and can be done

So far...we have seen

- **By faith – Understand – creation, what cannot see**
 - Bible is our Basis, source of faith (Rom 10 – comes by hearing)
- **By faith Abel offered–Offer acceptable sacrifice – come to God acceptably**
 - Right with God only thru His way, own way is rejected
- **By faith Enoch pleased God, walked with God**
 - Can please Him – positive side of it
- **By faith Noah headed God's warning**
 - Can miss judgment (negative side) – life be a testimony, fragrance

Today...come to the granddaddy of them all – Abraham, father of faith

- God gives several examples from Abraham's life (4 at least)
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I. Abraham's Obedient Faith

1. In this verse (and in Genesis, look at in moment) – three parts of this

2. Faith to Go Out

- a. Abraham was called to leave, to go out from his people, family
- b. Abraham was called to forsake all for God

3. Faith to Inherit

- a. Not earn, not take – but receive the inheritance, God's promises
- b. Receive what God would give him, do for him

4. Faith to Follow

- a. In the order of events – **Hebrews 11** is out of order
 - i) Begins with leaving, then following, finally obtaining (makes sense)
- b. Love the words here- going not knowing....something powerful
- c. Called to follow God as He would lead him into all that God has

5. Turn to Genesis 12 – see this pictured in Abraham's called

- a. **Faith to Go out** – **v.1** – get out of country, family
- b. **Faith to Follow** – **v.1** to a land that I will show you
- c. **Faith to inherit** – **v.2-3** – notice the "I will's" – God's work, promises
 - i) Bless you to make you a blessing

6. These three aspects – going out, following, inherit go together

- a. I want you to see this...understand. Don't want to make complicated, or push too high....

II. Basic Faith

1. Every Christian has the faith of Abraham – every one

2. Faith to go out

- a. To be His – have to break ties with world, family – surrender - **Luke 14:33**
- b. Graciously understand – still a process and work, but if Christian you have

3. Faith to follow

- a. Is actually the most repeated gospel call from Jesus – follow me
- b. Disciple literally means one who follows, a follower of
- c. A Christian is a follower of Jesus – **John 10:27**
- d. We do so – going not knowing – not seeing clearly...yet
 - i) **1Pet 1:8-9**. Embraced, love one who we have not yet seen

4. Faith to inherit

- a. To obtain God's blessings, promises and work – now...and into eternity
- b. **2 Pet 1:4**

5. Every Christian has the faith of Abraham – every one

- a. **Rom 4:16-17; Gal 3:7-9**
- b. Want to encourage you with, strengthen. Want to hold out today, not in unreal way

III. Growing Faith

1. As you read this – it reads like Abraham completely obeyed from first

- a. In fact, in a bunch of commentaries and sermons the point out
- b. The wording, way worded pictures an immediate total faith
- c. Problem....not true. Not true of Abraham
- d. Not true of all of us here...many are growing in faith
- e. Large part of point of Hebrews 11 is to cause your faith to grow

2. Watch the growing faith of Abraham

- a. Called to leave, follow, inherit the promises
- b. Abraham left Ur...
- c. Stops in Haran...and takes his family, dad, nephew
 - i) Notice **Gen 12:1** – “had said”
 - ii) **Acts 7:2-4** – called before...stopped in Haran
- d. Left Haran – **Gen 12:4**
- e. Took Lot – **Gen 12:5**
- f. Comes to Canaan, Worships, Alter– **Gen 12:7**
- g. Runs to Egypt in famine, willing to forsake promise–giving up Sarah–**Gen 12**
- h. Returns to Canaan, Worships, Altar
- i. Takes Lot
- j. Separates from Lot, Blessed by God

3. Growing faith....our faith is meant to grow...should be growing

- a. 2Thess 1:3, Ps 84:5-7; Mk 9:23-24

4. Want to encourage you with this today.

- a. Want to encourage you where you are with your faith. Perhaps growing.
 - i) Maybe discouraged, because you have not had perfect faith – missed it
 - ii) Abraham is a message to you...hope for you today
- b. Want to encourage you by the faithfulness of God
 - i) As I read through Abraham’s growth of faith – see God all over it
 - ii) It is God’s faithfulness that brought Abraham to all God had for him
- c. Point of Hebrews 11 – is example, to encourage your faith

IV. Purified Faith

1. As we look back at Abraham's faith

- a. It was an imperfect faith...a growing faith
- b. In the OT God was faithful to tell us of his struggles and foibles

2. Yet, as read it in Heb 11 – pictured as a perfect, full faith

- a. What is God showing us in this...and I think He is showing us something

3. Christian – you are I are going to face a judgment after we die

- a. There is no more condemnation for our sin – paid for **Rom 8:1**
- b. But will stand before the judgment seat of Christ **2Cor 5:9-10**
- c. Word for Judgment in Gk – is Bema – used of Olympic judges

4. What is that judgment going to be like – picture in 1Cor 3:12-15

- a. Building things – wood, hay stubble, gold, precious stones
- b. Fire will test our works – purify away that which is impure, imperfect
- c. Whatever is left after the fire purifies, will be what we have, rewarded
- d. Exactly what we see in Abraham – gone...purified, all that remains is good
- e. Even the times of returning are gone...all that is left is good
- f. See this in Abraham's life

5. This is an encouragement – bad will be purified. Not canceling out the good

6. This is a warning....all bad will be purified, what is left – what have in that day

V. Great Faith

1. Abraham's faith is a picture of all faith – every believer has...in part

- a. Yet it is a call to greater faith
- b. Spurgeon "A little faith will take your soul to heaven, great faith will bring heaven to your soul"

2. Great faith to go out

- a. Christian life is one that we are supposed to continue to go – out, let go
- b. Jesus said if anyone wants to come after Me, deny self...daily
- c. Some are here right now....God is looking at something in your life – asking for it, asking you to let go of it
- d. Often worldliness and relationships
- e. Often the way it works, can't see how it will work out – just let go

3. Great faith to follow

- a. Be honest with you...this part attracts me, speaking to me more than others
- b. I have a sense from the Lord, that this area – is one of the most key today
- c. A call, to be able, willing to be "going not knowing"
- d. **Prov 16:9** – men like plans, God directs steps – contrast
 - i) We like having a map, a whole plan..not what God gives us–step by step
- e. **Prov 20:24** - Because of this, we cannot understand our way (map)
- f. **Prov 3:5-6** – Trust and lean not on our own understanding
- g. **2Cor 5:7** – walk by faith...not sight
- h. Be honest...what in your life is this right now?
- i. For many...walking by sight, demanding sight - yet thinking it is faith
- j. Wonder if some lives are stifled...because won't walk by faith.
- k. v6 – without faith, cannot please God

4. Great faith to inherit promises

- a. Promises now...more that God would do, give you – not earn – give
- b. Things, gold, silver and precious stones...but you won't come
- c. Story of the girl and her pearl necklace

VI. Continuing Faith

- 1. Simple point...this life of faith – is not a single thing – lifestyle God wants
- 2. Abraham lived his whole life...in faith
- 3. More on in another study...but want you to see, not a single event – life

Conclusion

Question...how do we have this. One key we have not touched on – first word

- Key is Obedience (hupakouo) listen under – like servant, enlisted man, employee and more. It is to accept Him as one who directs...as God
- **Prov 3:5-6** – acknowledging Him for who He is

Poem I found this week that says what I want to say here

I go on not knowing—
I would not if I might,
I'd rather walk in the dark with God
Than walk alone in the light;
I'd rather walk by faith with Him
Than to walk alone by sight.

How about you? Is God calling you to great faith

- Is He saying let go of something, go out without knowing...receiving

Close with this last thought – every Christian has this faith, in part

- Do you have this? Have you entered
- Leave the world, sin, relationships – follow Him...receive life
- **Rom 4:1-4** – not works...it is faith that changes