

LIVING FAITH V
Accepts God's Will as Supreme
Hebrews 11:8-10

INTRODUCTION

- A. Each of the previous lessons can really be summed up with the word “obedience”.
 - 1. The emphasis has been about following God’s Word.
 - a. By faith, Abel offered [*obeyed*] a better sacrifice.
 - b. By faith, Enoch walked [*obeyed*] with God.
 - c. By faith, Noah prepared [*obeyed*] an ark.
 - 2. The Bible is our source of faith, Romans 14:23.
 - 3. We cannot afford to go beyond the words of God, 2 John 9.
 - 4. *Living faith* comes only from the Bible, Romans 10:17.
- B. Only Moses and Jesus receive more space than Abraham in Divine writings.
 - 1. The name “Abram” or “Abraham” is used about 306 times.
 - 2. Abraham means “*the father of a great multitude.*”
 - 3. He is recognized as a model of living faith – *accepting God’s will as supreme.*

I. BY FAITH, ABRAHAM...

- A. Promises Received from God. Genesis 12:2-3
 - 1. I will make you a great nation.
 - 2. Make your name great.
 - a. And Abraham became the father of the faithful.
 - b. Romans 4:16
 - 3. In you all the families of the earth to be blessed.
- B. Conditions Had to Be Met.
 - 1. You must go.
 - a. Leaving family, home, community, security.
 - b. You will go to a place I will show you.
- C. Abraham’s Living Faith.
 - 1. Abraham was the first person to be identified as “believing”.
 - a. Genesis 15:6
 - b. Believing is to be trusting or faithful.
 - 2. Abraham Departed.
 - a. It simply says that Abraham “*went forth*” [Gen. 12:4], “*departed*” [Acts 7:3-4], or “*obeyed...he went out not knowing where...*” [Heb. 11:8].
 - b. Instructions were not as specific (Noah’s ark).
 - c. Canaan was 400 miles away (Monticello to Nashville).
 - 3. He lived as an alien.
 - a. He was promised the land, but he did not receive an inheritance (not even a foot of ground). Acts 7:5
 - i. He did purchase a cave for a burial plot, Gen. 23.
 - b. He left everything (home, property, community) for “nothing”, lived in tents.
 - c. Promised a great nation, but no child at the age of 75.
 - 4. He was looking for a city.
 - a. God was the architect and builder.

- b. God said it was there, Abraham trusted.
- 5. Abraham accepted God's will as supreme.
 - a. He was going to follow God – and no other.
 - b. No matter the inconveniences in life.

II. THE LESSON OF FAITH.

- A. It Is NOT about waiting around for God to speak to you.
- B. It Is NOT about giving up everything.
 - 1. Not selling house, quitting a job, moving to a strange land.
 - 2. We do understand that earthly possessions can stand in our way of serving God.
 - a. 1 Timothy 6:10
 - b. Mark 10:17-22 – rich young ruler
 - 3. Possessions can also be a blessing for God. 1 Timothy 6:17-19
- C. The Lesson: Accepting God's Will as Supreme.
 - 1. Facing the daily battle with Satan for control of our lives.
 - a. Paul faced the battle daily, Romans 7:14-23.
 - b. I die daily, 1 Cor. 15:31.
 - c. When we are baptized:
 - i. We are dead to sin (Romans 6:11).
 - ii. Sin is no longer a choice.
 - 2. Jesus, Our Example.
 - a. *"Not My will, but Thine..."* Luke 22:42
 - b. John 19:30, *"It is finished"* – doing the will of the Father.
 - c. 1 Peter 2:21, *"...follow in His footsteps."*
 - 3. It begins with a true desire to do God's will.
 - a. Our prayers, 1 John 5:14.
 - b. To do God's will begins by knowing God's Will – His Word.
 - i. Psalm 119:11
 - c. Actually doing God's Will, 1 John 2:17.
 - 4. The will of the world always leads to TROUBLE.
 - a. Proverbs 16:25
 - b. Jeremiah 10:23
 - c. Romans 6:23

CLOSING

- A. We are looking for a city.
 - 1. Its builder and architect is God.
 - 2. A city four-square, Revelation 21:2 – made ready by God.
 - a. A new heaven and a new earth.
 - b. Every tear wiped away.
 - c. No death, no mourning, no pain.
 - 3. Our hope:
 - a. 2 Timothy 4:7-8
 - b. Colossians 1:5