

“Faith That Obeys”
Hebrews 11:8-22
4/26/26
Message 20

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “Faith That Obeys”

- **Review – Running Start**

- **Importance Of Hebrews**

- **1. Connecting the Testaments**

- Paul Quotes the OT –
- If you don’t understand the OT you will not be able to understand Hebrews

- **2. Jesus is Superior**

- Jesus is BETTER Than
 - The Prophets - Ch 1
 - The Angels - Ch 1-2
 - Moses - Ch 3
 - Joshua – Ch 4
 - The High Priest – Ch 5-9
 - The Tabernacle Ch 9
 - The Law & Sacrifices Ch 10

- **3. Encouragement - Don’t quit**

- The ultimate goal of the book

- To encourage those who are struggling with difficult times and help them to endure.

- **Remember Context – Running Start**

- **1. Doctrine Ends - Hebrews 10:18**
 - Ended the Doctrine Section of Hebrews
- **2. Duty Begins - From Hebrews 10:19 until the end of the book**
 - **It is NOW DUTY TIME**
 - We have a Responsibility do something with the Doctrine
 - LIVE IT OUT
 - WALK WORTHY
- **3. KEY - Paul is Writing to Discouraged Believers**
 - Paul is encouraging these discourage believers to keep moving forward in Christ to stay the course
 - There is NO Other Place to go
 - You must NOT lose heart

Proverbs 24:10 (NKJV)

10 If you faint in the day of adversity, Your strength is small.

- So critical that we are ALWAYS growing in our walks with Jesus
 - Otherwise, we run the risk of fainting
- **4. Paul's Instruction – For Staying The Course**
 - **1. Draw Near To God vv. 19-21**

- The FIRST thing he does to encourage them
 - Because of what Christ has Done
 - Because He made Himself the Perfect Sacrifice
 - We NOW have BOLDNESS to come before a HOLY God
 - So let take advantage of that
- **2. The Response Of Those Who Have Access To God vv. 22-25**
 - The SECOND thing he does
 - **Let Us**
 - Draw Near to God
 - Hold Fast Confession of our Hope
 - Consider – Others
 - Not Forsake the Fellowship
- **3. The Problem With Willful Rejection vv. 26-31**
 - THIRD Thing he does
 - There is no other place to Go
 - Jesus is the ONLY WAY
- **4. The Reminder Of The Heavenly Reward vv. 32-39**
 - FOURTH thing he does
 - Heaven is coming

- Hang in there Jesus is coming to take us all home

- **5. Keep the Faith Chapter 11:1-7**

- What is Faith

Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV)

1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

- Faith = Trust
- Substance = Foundation = Jesus
- Evidence = We have not seen BUT we KNOW

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

- To Please GOD = Must have FAITH
- Must Believe = That He is GOD
- Diligently Seek Him = With ALL your heart

- Examples from Last Week

- Cain And Abel v. 4

- 2 brothers who were the first two children of Adam and Eve.

- Abel was a shepherd
- Cain was a farmer
- They both came to worship the Lord

- Enoch v. 5
 - Walked with God and was taken home
- Noah v. 7
 - Faithful when mocked
 - Faithful when there very little fruit

• **Now This Morning 4 More GREAT EXAMPLES On How Faith Obeys God**

- The Example Of Abraham vv. 8-19
- The Example Of Isaac v. 20
- The Example Of Jacob v. 21
- The Example Of Joseph v. 22

The Example Of Abraham vv. 8-19

• **Question**

- **Have you ever faced a time in your life**
 - That you did NOT know what's the next step was?
 - What does the Lord want you to do?
 - How do you make a decision when you don't know?
 - What is God's Will in this situation?
 - You searched the Word
 - But the Word does not speak to our exact situation
 - There are times in God's Word
 - We know EXACTLY WHAT TO DO

- Black and White
- There are other times
 - That we are having to pray and make decisions by FAITH
- Illustration
 - How to know God's Will
 - When Judy and I prayed about coming here in 2015
 - Interviewed at other places
 - The situation here was not good
 - No money
 - Step out in Faith
- **Hebrews 11 is all about Learning to Walk by Faith**
 - And we have SO MANY examples
 - NOTE
 - As we look at our examples
 - The stories don't line up
 - In the OT = Lots of Mistakes
 - In the NT – Mistakes / Sins Disappear
 - Heard of a teachers grading on the curve
 - God Grades on GRACE = for this is Christ

- **1. His Obedience To God's Call vv. 8-10**

- **1. It Involved His Decision v. 8**

Hebrews 11:8 (NKJV)

8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

- **Called**

- Greek: kaleo –
- Means: to call; to call aloud, utter in a loud voice; to call i.e. to name, by name

Genesis 12:1–3 (NKJV)

1 Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you.

2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.

3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

- **Show MAP**

- Ur was a well-developed city
 - Architecture and Engineering:
 - The city was renowned for the Great Ziggurat, a massive three-staged step pyramid made of burnt-brick over a mud-brick core.
 - They built complex multi-room houses, palaces, and advanced water systems, including drained, multi-story buildings.
 - Indoor Plumbing
 - Writing and Administration:

- Residents used one of the oldest, most durable writing systems (cuneiform) for extensive bookkeeping, commercial transactions, law, and literature.
- Libraries were kept in temples, and literate scribes were vital for tracking agricultural and commercial data.
- Astronomy and Mathematics:
 - The Chaldeans (historically associated with this region) were known for tracking celestial bodies, creating a system that laid the groundwork for astronomical studies.
 - They utilized advanced mathematics and geometry.
- Manufacturing
 - The city was a manufacturing center for textiles (wool and flax).
 - Archaeological findings, such as those at the Royal Tombs of Ur, demonstrate advanced skills in working with gold, silver, and other semi-precious stones.
- Musical Instrumentation:
 - Archaeological finds include unique items like silver pipes.
- **Obeded –**
 - Greek: Hupakouo –
 - Means: To listen, to harken; of one who on the knock at the door comes to listen who it is, (the duty of a porter);

to harken to a command; to obey, be obedient to, submit to

▪ **Not Knowing Where**

- Abraham didn't "understand"
 - Where he was going.
 - He didn't know what he was getting into.
 - He wasn't "well-versed" in the geography of the place.
- But he went anyway because God called him to go.
 - I don't believe he had a map.
 - I don't think he had a guide.
 - I know he didn't have GPS.
 - But if he did, his GPS might have sounded like this...

▪ **Application - Faith and Direction**

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

- If you want to live a life that pleases God
- You will need to take steps of faith from time to time, and that might mean that you will have to move without knowing exactly what you're doing

Proverbs 3:5–6 (NKJV)

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;

6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

○ **2. It Involved Dwelling In A Foreign Country v. 9**

Hebrews 11:9 (NKJV)

9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;

▪ **Dwelt ... as in a foreign country**

- The land of Canaan
 - The Lord is giving this land to HIM
- BUT He lived as though he were a “foreigner”, an outsider.
 - Abraham never had a permanent house, he lived in a tent.
 - Yet Abraham was the one who was promised by God to inherit all of that land.
- By FAITH
 - He kept a lite touch on this world
 - Always had an Altar

▪ **Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise**

- Abraham and his son and grandson all lived in tents as strangers in the land.
- They too had been given a promise by God of one day inheriting the entire land, though during their lives they owned very little of that land.

▪ **We should live in this world with the same attitude**

- A lite touch – holding onto heaven and Hos promise more

1 Peter 2:11 (NKJV)

11 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,

- How to dwell in this land as a sojourners and pilgrims
 - Stay in the Word
 - Keep yourself from Idols
 - Hold everything here with an OPEN hand – It's ALL God'
 - Remember your real HOME is coming
- **3. It Involved His Desire For A Heavenly City v. 10**

Hebrews 11:10 (NKJV)

10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

- **Abraham was looking for that city built by God.**
 - He wasn't looking for a new "palace" overlooking the Mediterranean.
 - He was looking for heaven.
- **Application**
 - Our hope should be aimed at heaven.
 - Heaven is my home
 - Our citizenship is in heaven and we look for the Savior
 - I'm just a tent dweller

- Doing the best we can to make heaven crowded

• **2. The Main Obstacle Which He Faced vv. 11-12**

○ **1. The Ability Of He And Sarah To Have A Child vv. 11-12**

Hebrews 11:11–12 (NKJV)

11 By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.

12 Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

▪ **The Call**

- Leave and Go (Genesis 12)

▪ **The Promises of Covenant and Descendants (Genesis 15)**

Genesis 15:18–21 (NKJV)

18 On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: “To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates—

19 the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites,

20 the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim,

21 the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.”

▪ **The Problem (Genesis 16)**

Genesis 16:1–2 (NKJV)

1 Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, had borne him no children. And she had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar.

2 So Sarai said to Abram, “See now, the LORD has restrained me from bearing children. Please, go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her.” And Abram heeded the voice of Sarai.

- Hagar gave birth to Ishmael

▪ **The SON of Promise (Genesis 18)**

Genesis 18:10–15 (NKJV)

10 And He said, “I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son.” (Sarah was listening in the tent door which was behind him.)

11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age; and Sarah had passed the age of childbearing.

12 Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, “After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?”

13 And the LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, saying, ‘Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old?’

14 **Is anything too hard for the LORD?** At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.”

15 But Sarah denied it, saying, “I did not laugh,” for she was afraid. And He said, “No, but you did laugh!”

▪ **Application**

- NOTHING is too Hard for the Lord
- Faith Understand this and LIVES THIS OUT
- There are obstacles to face BUT God is BIGGER
- My God is So big, So Strong and So mighty

• **3. The Objective That They Had vv. 13-16**

○ **1. They Responded To God Until They Died v. 13a**

Hebrews 11:13 (NKJV)

13 **These all died in faith**, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

▪ **These**

- Everyone he is talking about here
- Before the Promise CAME

- BUT by FAITH!!!

○ **2. They Received No Fulfillment During Their Lifetime v. 13b**

Hebrews 11:13 (NKJV)

13 *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*

▪ **It says flat out “not having received the promises**

- But having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them”
- Their faith made them believe in what God had said to them but their circumstances didn’t give them any evidence that God was going to fulfill His word
- They had to trust the word of God when they did not see it
- OT They look forward to His Coming
- NT We look back at His coming
- BUT it is All by Faith

▪ **Application - Faith keeps going**

- We might not see all that is going ON
 - BUT faith in God KEEPS moving forward

○ **3. They Realized That This Earth Was Not Their Final Home v. 3d**

Hebrews 11:13 (NKJV)

13 *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*

- **Again = This world is not where we belong – It NOT our Home**

- Called a stranger and an alien

- **Application - Defining Home**

- We call it a “homing instinct”.
 - Did you Know
 - Sea turtles emerge from their eggs, make their way into the ocean, and will return after maturity to the very same beach they were hatched on.
 - The salmon will spend its life out in the ocean, but when it’s time to spawn, will make its way up freshwater streams to where it was originally hatched.
- We have a “homing” instinct, but it’s not tied to something on the planet.
 - The Bible says

Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NKJV)

11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.

- Heaven is OUR home
- Illustration
 - There’s a story about an old missionary couple coming home from spending years in Africa. They were booked on the same ship as President Teddy Roosevelt who was returning from a successful big-game safari.

As the ship pulled into the harbor, the crowds were lining the docks to cheer on the President. But nobody was waiting or cheering for the missionaries.

- That night the man was so depressed that nobody seemed to care about how they had spent their life. The man's wife said, "Why don't you go in the bedroom and tell that to the Lord?" A short time later he came out from the bedroom, but now his face was completely different. His wife asked, "Dear, what happened?" "The Lord settled it with me," he said. "I told him how bitter I was that the President should receive this tremendous homecoming, when no one met us as we returned home. And when I finished, it seemed as though the Lord put his hand on my shoulder and simply said, 'But you're not home yet!'"
- Ray Stedman, Talking to My Father

- **4. They Refused To Go Back vv. 14-15**

Hebrews 11:14–15 (NKJV)

14 *For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland.*
15 *And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return.*

- **They refused to go back because they were governed by God**

- What He had to say and what He had to promise

- **5. They Recognized That God's Promise Of A Heavenly City Was "Better" v. 16**

Hebrews 11:16 (NKJV)

16 *But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.*

- **Do we really believe that?**

- John 14

- **4. The Offering Of His Son, Isaac vv. 17-19**

- **1. The Test Involved His “only begotten” v. 17**

Hebrews 11:17 (NKJV)

17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,

- **Tested**

- Tested
- Greek: πειράζω peirázō;
 - Experience, trial. To try, to prove in either a good or bad sense, tempt,
 - Generally and in a good sense in order to ascertain the character, views, or feelings of someone (Matt. 22:35 [cf. Mark 12:28, 34; John 6:6; Rev. 2:2]; Sept.: 1 Kgs. 10:1; Ps. 17:3).
 - Going through a Trial
 - Count It all joy... James

- **Only begotten Son**

- Did he have other children he has he had one to
 - Ishmael from Hagar
 - After Sarah died he had 6 more through Keturah
- But this the only begotten Son this is the unique the one and only son thru whom God's promise would be fulfilled

- ISAAC

- **2. The Testimony Of God About Isaac Was At Stake v. 18**

Hebrews 11:18 (NKJV)

18 of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called,"

- Isaac was called!!!

- **3. His Trust Was In God's Power To Raise Him From The Dead v. 19**

Hebrews 11:19 (NKJV)

19 concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

- Isaac YOU are the son of the promise
 - If God calls me to do this then I know – He has a plan – to raise you from the dead
 - He believes it so strongly he knew that if he plunged that knife into his boy and killed him God would raise him from the dead
- Isaac – A Type of Christ
 - Isaac - Jesus sacrifice
 - Abraham – type of the Father offering His only Son.
 - The Only Son:
 - Isaac is referred to as Abraham's "only son whom he loves" (Genesis 22:2), directly echoing God the Father's love for Jesus.
 - The Journey & Timing:

- Abraham and Isaac traveled for three days, paralleling the three days before Jesus' resurrection.
- Carrying the Wood:
 - Isaac carried the wood for the sacrifice up the hill, just as Jesus carried his own cross to Golgotha.
- Willing Submission:
 - Isaac, likely not a small child, was obedient to his father unto death, representing Christ's willing sacrifice.
- The Location:
 - The sacrifice occurred on Mount Moriah, which is in the same vicinity as where Jesus was later crucified.
- The Substitution:
 - Just as God provided a ram with its horns caught in thorns as a substitute for Isaac, God provided Jesus as the ultimate lamb, who wore a crown of thorns.
- **4. Application**
 - Our Faith Keeps GOD first
 - Is will to Obey when it does not make sense

The Example Of Isaac v. 20

● **1. Isaac's faith v. 20**

Hebrews 11:20 (NKJV)

20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

- **1. By faith Isaac blessed Jacob**

- Isaac was really in the flesh, not in faith,
 - When he first intended to bless Esau instead of Jacob.
 - He wanted to bless Esau with the birthright for carnal reasons.
 - He liked Esau as a more “manly” man, and he liked the wild game he brought home. Instead he should have chosen Jacob, whom God chose.

- **2. By faith Isaac blessed**

- Yet Isaac came to the place of faith when he discovered that he had actually blessed
 - Jacob instead of Esau.
 - Genesis 27:33 says, Isaac trembled exceedingly.
 - When Isaac trembled exceedingly
 - He was troubled because he knew that he had tried to box God in, to defeat God’s plan, and that God beat him.

The Example Of Jacob v. 21

- **1. Jacob’s faith v. 21**

Hebrews 11:21 (NKJV)

21 By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.

- **1. By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph:**

- Jacob led a rather carnal life.

- Yet his faith could also look beyond death – and he blessed each of his sons.
- **2. And worshipped, leaning on the top of his staff:**
 - Jacob had to lean on the top of his staff because he was given a limp many years before when God confronted him at Peniel (Genesis 32:24-32).
 - As he leaned on his staff he remembered that God was great and held his future and the future of his descendants.
 - He worshiped, demonstrating his faith and dependence on God.

The Example Of Joseph v.22

• **1. Joseph's faith v. 22**

Hebrews 11:22 (NKJV)

22 *By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.*

○ **1. By faith Joseph:**

Genesis 50:24 (NKJV)

24 *And Joseph said to his brethren, "I am dying; but God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land of which He swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."*

- Showed his faith BY ASKING that they take his bones with them
- **2. Gave instructions concerning his bones**
 - When Joseph died he was never buried.
 - His coffin laid above ground for the 400 or so years until it was taken back to Canaan.

- It was a silent witness all those years that Israel was going back to the Promised Land, just as God had said.

Closing

- Hebrews 11
 - Is all about Examples
 - Of men and women that Although NOT perfect – RAN the Race and finished BY FAITH
 - If they can do it – so can we
 - Keep Running