

The Triumph of

Hebrews 11



**"If ye have faith
as a grain of mustard seed..." Matthew 17:20**

*A Wednesday Evening Study of
God's Examples of the People of Faith
found in*

Hebrews 11

This Booklet belongs to:

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the Bible Baptist Church of Ballincollig, Cork
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Many Thanks!

Many thanks go to the people who helped put together all these studies into this one great Bible Study Book!

Dan Eberly, Tony Mahony, John Mahony, Graham Daly, Kevin O’Keeffe, Andrew Day, Eric McNally, and Martin Monaghan along with myself all helped develop this series of twenty five Bible Study lessons on how to triumphantly live by faith like the men and women listed in Hebrews Chapter Eleven did!

Much time was spent studying these people in the Bible, and then writing the lessons, and then reviewing and collating all these studies into the one Booklet that you now hold.

I thank God for such great examples of faith for God’s people today, and my prayer is that a new generation of faithful men and women would rise up and live by the “mountain moving faith” that is available to every believer!

So, it is to this generation of believers, and especially to the Bible believers of the Bible Baptist Church of Ballincollig, Cork, Ireland, that this study is dedicated! May the Lord Jesus get all the glory for His work in our lives, and may much fruit remain simply because of our determination to live by such powerful faith!

Pastor Craig Ledbetter

FAITH FARM

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



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This is intended to be a week by week Bible study on Wednesday evenings of the people that God chose to list in Hebrews chapter eleven as examples of living by faith. Each week, the study will be like Discipleship, where there are fill in the blanks that are drawn out of looking up and reading the portions of Scripture relating to that person being studied.

The Wednesday evening study will break everyone into small groups, each with a leader and several students. The leader will basically just guide the study, while the students will read each paragraph and attempt to answer the fill-ins from looking up the Scriptures presented.

Everyone should have their own study booklet (at a small cost), and should bring their booklet with them every week, or leave them in a box for the next week.

Each lesson should last about 50 minutes with time for questions.

If a lesson cannot be completed during the evening meeting, then it is recommended that the lesson should be completed at home so that the next week the next lesson can be studied.

The Bible's Meaning of Faith

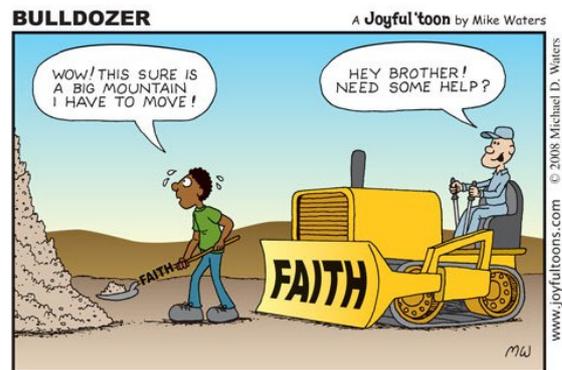
Lesson 1

Hebrews 11:1

Hebrews 11:1 *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”*

I. Introduction – Hebrews 11 is a complete Summary of Faith

- A. Hebrews chapter Eleven presents the Power of Faith as superior to the power of a carnal, religious ceremony, or some ritual of good works! All the efforts of a human being cannot compare to the abilities of the God whom we serve!
- B. Faith is just simply accessing the power of God according to the Promises of God. All a believer is doing is believing what God promises us!
- C. There is so much abuse of “faith” today, that so many people give up trying to trust God alone. They have believed their church, their priest, their “guru” and so on, but they have never learned to just trust God according to His Bible!
- D. This study will help the believer to understand just WHAT faith is, so that over the next many weeks, he or she will grow their faith to the level of the people listed in Hebrews Eleven!
- E. If there is anything we all can learn from Hebrews chapter 11, God rewards _____, not intelligence, abilities, or even good works (Hebrews 11:6)!



II. Lesson

A. Defining Biblical Faith (Hebrews 11:1)

1. The first thing we can learn is what Biblical faith is. According to Hebrews 11:1,
 - a. Faith has _____ - it is solid, and real - we say, living BY faith
 - b. Faith has _____ - there ought to be evidence that you have faith (2 Cor 4:18)
2. So, a Christian's faith is just as real as the chair you are sitting on.
 - a. If someone wanted you to point to "faith" - where would you point? You should point to the Bible, and say that THAT is your faith.
 - b. If someone asked you "What do you believe? What is YOUR faith?" You should held up your Bible and say THIS is my faith!
 - c. The Bible contains all that we believe... from start to finish! Plus nothing, minus nothing!
3. Therefore, faith is _____, enough to just _____
 - a. It is a confidence in God – not a guess.

- b. It is what enables you to do the impossible, simply because you are following Jesus' instructions, and doing things HIS way.
 - c. It is agreeing with what God sees is possible, even when your own mind says it is impossible!
 - d. Most importantly, Faith is NOT telling God what to do, but instead, you trusting God's word enough to do what HE tells you to do!
4. Not talking about BLIND faith, but believing THE faith – the words of Almighty God (Titus 1:2), who cannot lie, which are proven to be perfect and without error (Prov 30:5).
- a. Historically – every major place and person that the Bible speaks about has been found and documented.
 - b. Scientifically – every time the Bible speaks about scientific things, like the circle of the earth, the fact that the earth is hanging on nothing in space, etc., it is always right!
 - c. Prophetically – there are hundreds and hundreds of prophecies in the Bible that have been fulfilled perfectly!
 - d. These proofs show us that faith in what the Bible promises is the only faith to have!

B. There is so much to living by faith!

God filled the pages of the Bible with the recorded examples of hundreds of lives. Then, in Hebrews 11, God settles for _____ people to present as His *honor role*, who receive a good report card for their “faith,” their confidence in God. It is sort of a condensed history of faith.

C. There are various kinds of faith:

1. From _____ faith (Mark 4:40)
2. To _____ faith (Matthew 8:26)
3. To _____ faith (Hebrews 10:23; James 1:6)
4. To _____ and Active faith (Romans 4:20)
5. To _____ faith - unhindered faith (1Timothy 1:5; 2Timothy 1:5)
6. And finally to _____ faith (Matthew 8:10)
7. Just like anything, faith needs to _____ (2Thessalonians 1:3) - and that is what this chapter is all about - feeding our faith so that it grows!

D. Do you know what possessing true, Biblical faith does for a person?

1. It supplies all the _____ the human heart needs to survive (Romans 5:2; Hebrews 11:1)!
2. It also provides all the _____ we need to satisfy our doubts and fears (Hebrews 11:1)
3. It brings **rest** – God “*giveth his beloved _____*” (Psalm 127:2) - even in the midst of troubles and stress!

4. It goes beyond our own abilities – because our confidence is in God and HIS abilities now, and not in ourselves!
5. It causes a hunger to trust God more. If you have faith, you will be wanting to experience its limit, not just dabble in it.
6. It is what develops Christian Maturity – having a confident faith in God's word will develop you just like a healthy diet makes you strong - Paul describes a Christian's life as being lived "*who through faith...*"

III. Review Questions

- A. What is Faith? _____

- B. Do people have a wrong idea about what faith is? List a wrong way to "believe": _____

- C. Can you list the Bible's different levels of faith in order?
1. From _____ faith
 2. To _____ faith
 3. To _____ faith
 4. To _____ and Active faith
 5. To _____ faith - unhindered faith
 6. And finally to _____ faith
- D. Why can we be so sure that faith in what the Bible promises will work?

- E. What is the only way to please God? _____

IV. Some Final Thoughts on Faith

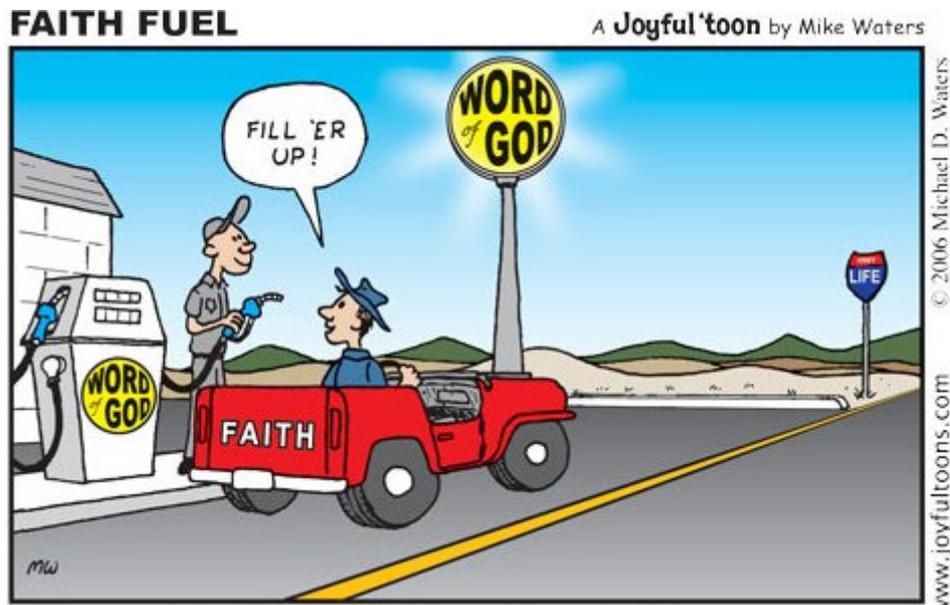
A. What Faith Means

1. Faith is believing what is impossible to believe.
2. Faith is deliberate confidence in the character of God whose ways you may not understand at the time. --*Oswald Chambers*
3. Faith is trust without reservation.
4. Faith declares what the senses cannot speak, sees what the eyes cannot see, hears what no one else can hear, and leans on what seems so foolish. Faith just believes God!
5. Remember, faith itself cannot accomplish anything... only GOD does! Faith is simply trusting that GOD will accomplish what He has already promised!
6. Faith means not worrying - *David Martyn Lloyd-Jones*
7. God isn't looking for people of great faith, but for individuals ready to follow Him --*Hudson Taylor*
8. Sometimes God doesn't tell us His plan because we wouldn't believe it anyway. -- *Carlton Pearson*
9. It's a good thing to have all the props pulled out from under us occasionally. It gives us some sense of what is rock under our feet, and what is sand. --

Madeleine L'Engle Scriptural reference: "If I can only touch the hem of His garment, I'll be healed."

B. What Faith Does

1. A man of courage is also full of faith. *Marcus Tullius Cicero*
2. Every tomorrow has two handles. We can take hold of it with the handle of anxiety or the handle of faith. *Henry Ward Beecher*
3. To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible. *Thomas Aquinas*
4. Don't tell God how Big your storm is, tell the Storm how Big your God is.
5. No one can comprehend the infinite ability of our almighty God except by faith!!!
6. We cannot exercise our faith beyond what we believe to be possible. – *John G. Lake*



The Believer's Comprehending Faith

Lesson 2

What We Can Understand by Faith

Hebrews 11:3

Hebrews 11:3 *“Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.”*

I. Introduction

- A. Faith BELIEVES God's Word. Faith believes the bible as it is written. And God rewards us when we just accept what He says, no matter how impossible it may seem.
- B. And according to Hebrews 11:3, He rewards our faith, with an understanding that is far beyond what scientists can figure out (Psalm 119:99,100 says we can know more than our _____, and even the “_____”). *By just believing what God wrote, a Bible believer understands and comprehends some great truths – greater even than a scientist can grasp!*
- C. What follows is a study about what a Christian can understand simply because God tells us about it.

II. Lesson

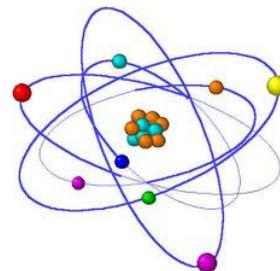
- A. **Faith understands** _____ (Gen 1:1-3; John 1:1-3) – *“we understand that the _____ were framed by the word of God.”* We understand that what we see in this universe came from God, not by accident!



1. God *spoke* it, and Jesus created it, all out of nothing
2. Modern “scientists” believe that EVERYTHING we see in the universe, all came by accident from a very, very tiny dot!
3. This entire universe (“worlds” not just the world), all just appeared out of nowhere, fully mature, ready to go from day one. And a Bible believer understands it! Amen! Don't be afraid of “science.”
4. A person who believes this Book is at least 500 years ahead of science!
5. Anybody who believes this Book, has in their hands the very same **power** that CREATED this entire universe! Wow! If only you would let it work IN you like it did throughout this universe, creating light and life, it would create such light and life in you!

- B. **Faith understands** _____ (Col 1:16,17)

1. The universe is a miracle. But the fact it is still here is also a miracle. Just left to itself, it would fly apart and fall apart. So God holds everything together by the very same word that He used to create everything (Heb 1:3).
2. Consistence means “holding something together” like glue.



3. Why doesn't everything just fly-apart? The Bible believing Christian knows why!
4. Jesus is the glue all the scientists are trying to find.
5. He is what Albert Einstein referred to as the *Strong Force*.
6. He is holding your chair together under your weight.
7. He holds YOU together – not just your skin and your heart, but your molecules and your cells!
8. He can hold you together enough to get you through any problem! So, by faith, the Christian sees God (not fate) in control, and trusts that He is always working towards a great goal (Romans 8:28).
9. A Bible believer, living by faith in the promises of God will stay faithful to God, no matter how hard or dark it may get!

C. Faith understands _____ of everything (2Peter 3:10-13)

1. Finally, faith is what a Bible believer uses to understand *the future*
2. The world is not getting better and better!
3. We KNOW what's going on, and what's going to happen in the future – a big BANG is coming! And that will be the conclusion of everything that we now see, and the beginning of a whole new _____ and new _____.

D. To the person with this kind of faith, the invisible world is more real than the visible – because we have a way to see “the invisible” things (2 Cor 5:7)!

1. We understand that every person has an invisible soul, and can look beyond skin, height, abilities and disabilities.
2. We understand that there is a real heaven and a hell.
3. We understand that God (not fate) is working all things out for good (Romans 8:28).
4. We understand why Jesus allowed Himself to be crucified – there was something much more happening than just a tragic death of a Man.
5. We understand that the universe is filled with stars and planets and galaxies that just simply prove His awesome glory (Psalm 19:1,2).

III. Review Questions

A. How can a person find out where everything in this universe came from?

B. How did everything get created? _____

C. Are there things that exist that we cannot see? _____

D. Who can a Bible believer know more than when they just believe what God wrote in His word? _____

E. What does Consistence mean? _____

F. Why doesn't everything just fly-apart? _____

Abel's Atoning Faith

Lesson 3

Hebrews 11:4 (Genesis 4:1-8)

Hebrews 11:4 *“By faith Abel offered unto God a more _____ than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.”*

I. Introduction

- A. The word “Atoning” is a Bible word that means “covering” or “forgiveness.”
- B. Two young brothers attempted to approach God through two different sacrifices. But only one was accepted. Why was Abel’s sacrifice accepted, and praised by God, while his brother’s was rejected?
- C. Does God have specific expectations on how we are to obtain forgiveness, and if so, how then are we to approach God?
- D. This lesson will look at both Cain’s and Abel’s sacrifices, and compare them to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

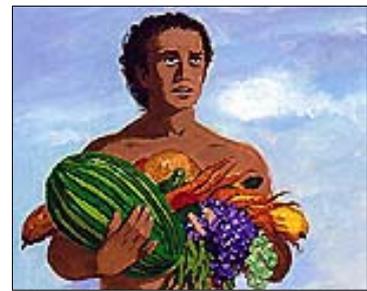
II. Lesson

A. It was Time to Worship God.

1. In Genesis 3:21, Adam and Eve had been learned that sin brings _____ (Rom 6:23; James 1:15), and that the only way to be forgiven as a sinner was through the death of innocent _____ in their place! They had tried to “cover” or “atone” for their sins by wearing _____ sewn together, but God gave them the skins of a sacrificed lamb to wear as a reminder of the cost of their forgiveness.
2. Now it was time for Adam’s two sons to approach God on their own.
3. Cain and Abel were not innocent like their parents were at first, but were born sinners (Romans 5:12; Psalm 51:5), and therefore had to obtain forgiveness before they could actually worship God.
4. The problem for Cain and Abel, was figuring out how to obtain forgiveness. Would they learn from their parents, or try to do things their own way?

B. Cain’s Way (Genesis 4:1-3)

1. Cain brought the “fruit of his labours” – what does that mean? _____



2. What was wrong with the ground since Adam had sinned? (See Gen 3:17): _____

3. His offering was contrary to God's expectations of the one and only way to atone for sin.
 - a. Leviticus 17:11 *"For the life of the flesh is in the _____: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an _____ for your souls: for it is the _____ that maketh an _____ for the soul."*
 - b. Ephesians 1:7 *"In whom we have redemption through his _____, the _____ of sins, according to the riches of his grace."*
4. Cain showed no respect of the holiness of God through his offering of his best efforts. He gave of the cursed ground from his hard work, and this was unacceptable to God.
5. Cain did what was "_____." See Proverbs 16:25
6. And God rejected Cain's sacrifice!
7. His sin had far reaching consequences (Gen 4:5-12).
 - a. Cain's sin came from pride, not from ignorance – he simply thought he could do better than what God asked of him.
 - b. It caused frustration with God instead of shame.
 - c. It turned into _____ against God (4:5), and then against Abel.
 - d. It turned into stubbornness, no matter how much God tried to reason with him (4:6,7).
 - e. That anger finally resulted in _____ of his own flesh and blood (4:8)!
 - f. Cain himself became cursed, and would live as a vagabond (a wanderer, or a nomad) for the rest of his life fleeing from people who would try and kill him.
8. Application
 - a. We can come to God with the wrong heart or motives as Cain did.
 - b. Meeting with God, we must have complete openness and honesty. God looks into our heart and there is nothing we can hide from him.
 - c. Parents have a responsibility to teach their children from God's word about:
 - 1) The holiness of God.
 - 2) About the high cost of sin!
 - 3) About the dangers of having a bad attitude towards others, and especially towards God!
 - d. Cain's offering was contrary to God's design for atonement. Cain offered a sacrifice of his own works, instead of by faith. He approached God on the merit of his labour. He offered his works to God, not his faith. Cain's works, like all of mankind's is only _____ (1John 3:12)!

- e. People decide how and when they will approach God. The world will say that God loves them so much, that he will let them into heaven or that they are a good person. But the truth of God's own word tells us in Hebrews 11:6 that "*without faith it is impossible to please him (God)*"



C. Abel's Way (Genesis 4:4; Heb 11:4)

1. Adam taught Cain and Abel about sin and forgiveness from his own experience in the Garden of Eden. But it was only Abel who sought forgiveness God's way!
2. Abel offered his sacrifice by faith in what God says, not in what he himself thought.
3. He did not boast of a proud heart as Cain. Ephesians 2:9 says that a sinner is saved "..._____ *lest any man should boast...*" but only by "_____" (Ephesians 2:8).
4. Abel brought the best young lamb he had and killed the lamb so that he could be forgiven and stay alive!
5. His faith was accounted unto him as righteousness, not by any good works that he did or could have offered, but by his obedient faith in God.
6. His faith speaks even until this day Hab2:4... *the just shall live by faith....* Mark11:22 *But Jesus answering them said, have faith in God.* Abel showed his faith and it was testified of God. God speaks even of Abel's gifts, as they were acceptable unto God.
7. He paid a high price for obeying God, in that his brother Cain slew him out of envy. In the world there is an unnatural hatred of those who have faith in God. The world will accept any wind of doctrine, but not the truth.
8. Scripture tells us to take a stand. 2Thess2:15 "*Brethren stand fast....*" Stand fast by placing our faith in God, and doing things God's way. Jesus told us to have faith in God (Mark 11:22), not in anything else.
9. Application
 - a. Parents need to ensure that their children hear and heed their teaching from God's word about forgiveness.
 - b. Children will learn faith from the word of God and by watching and listening to their parents walk with God.
 - c. Our walk with God should impact on our children's children. Our walk/witness should continue for generations to come.
 - d. Walking by faith in God can cost us. We may be put down as a religious fanatic or lose relationships because of our decision to follow God's word. Be ready and willing to follow all the way!

D. There is a More Excellent Way (Hebrews 11:4)!

1. Like Abel, we obtain a good _____ from God about our faith in Christ's sacrifice.
2. We no longer need to trust in an animal sacrifice that could actually never take away our sin (Heb 10:11), but in a once for all sacrifice (10:10).
3. Abel's offering was temporary for his sin. It had to be renewed and offered to God over and over every year.
4. But then, Jesus came! "*Behold the Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world*" (John 1:29). Jesus said on the cross at Calvary, "...*it is* _____..." (John 19:30). Even God the Father said of him, "...*this is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased...*" There is no further need for an animal sacrifice, since forgiveness is completed in the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son.
5. Jesus told us of the More Excellent Way in John 14:6, "...*I am* _____, *the truth and the life, no man cometh unto the father but by me...*"
6. Application
 - a. We should have a testimony in what Christ has done in our lives. Christ sacrificed his life on a cross for us. Could you write out how YOU were saved, and be able to briefly explain Biblical forgiveness? People need to hear YOUR testimony.
 - b. We ought to be separate from the world. Set apart unto God. We are in the world but we are not of it. Lev 20:24 says "...*I am the Lord your God, which have* _____ *you from other people.*"
Lev 20:26 "...*and have severed you from other people, that ye should be mine.*"

**III. Review Questions**

- A. How would God testify of your life?
- B. Have you ever written out your personal testimony?
- C. What can we do to ensure our continued walk with God?

Enoch's Translating Faith

Lesson 4

Hebrews 11:5,6 (Genesis 5:21-24)

Hebrews 11:5,6 *“By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”*

I. Introduction

- A. In this lesson we will learn that a person can walk with God... BY FAITH!
- B. Enoch had a faith that enabled him to walk with God, and this pleased God so much that He decided to reward Enoch's faith by taking him to Heaven without him ever dying! It was the very first rapture in the Bible!
- C. Translate means to move something from one place to another. God translated, transported Enoch from earth to heaven – God took him!

II. Lesson

A. Who Enoch Was

1. Enoch was not a very special man because of himself. In fact, none of the “Great Men of the Bible” as we would describe them were great (Rom. 3:10). The reason we read about Enoch, Noah or Daniel to this day is because they had faith in a GREAT God! What a joy that we can also walk with such a mighty God!
2. Jude 1:14 describes Enoch as the _____ generation from Adam. That is very long time. When was the last time that you heard of a gathering of SEVEN generations of children and grandchildren, and great grandchildren, etc? THAT NEVER HAPPENS today! Yet it did way back then! Amazingly, Adam was still alive when Enoch was born because people lived for many centuries back then.
3. But Enoch lived in a very wicked time. Listen as famous evangelist D.L. Moody describes this world for us: Enoch lived in a world moulded and fashioned by the sons of Cain. They were the “men of light and leading” - the men of culture and progress. Jabal took the lead in agriculture; Tubal-Cain was the manufacturer; and Jubal provided the music and amusement. No doubt they thought Enoch an odd man, not valuing the improvements they were making in the sin-blighted earth. They doubtless hated him, because they saw that he despised the paint and varnish with which they were hiding the rottenness of a world dead to God. But they could afford to treat with contempt a minority of one; for they did not perceive the invisible God with whom Enoch walked.



4. Despite a sin cursed world and even a fallen nature like Adam, Enoch diligently walked with the God who loved him. The name Enoch means dedicated, and disciplined, and it certainly does take much effort and determination to maintain a walk with God in this _____ world (Philp 2:15)!

B. What is “Walking with God?” (Genesis 5:22-24) What does it actually mean “to walk with God”?

1. Is it just reading your Bible and praying? This isn't it, but it's certainly part of it and something you better be doing! The same way talking with your wife and being nice to her isn't marriage, but it's certainly part of it.
2. Is it just coming to church on a Sunday and Wednesday? No. That is a formality that can be acted out and faked. There are so many things that we can DO that are only actions without any _____ (Matthew 15:8).
3. Having a walk with God is to have an ongoing relationship or fellowship with Him.
 - a. It is to deeply desire to know Him more and to be pleasing to Him.
 - b. This intimate relationship needs to be both built up and maintained. This isn't easy, but just like physical exercise, you might be weak at the beginning but after regular exercise you get much, much stronger.
 - c. How is your walk with God? Are you struggling with it right now or have you even started walking at all?

C. How You Can Have a Translating Faith Like Enoch!

1. Seek God Humbly - Take the Step of Repentance
 - a. *“Can two (you and God) walk together, except they be _____?”* (Amos 3:3).
 - b. We cannot ever get close to God with ANY pride or stubborn self righteousness.
 - c. YOU have to get into agreement with God – not the other way around! Humble yourself before the God who knows you, and yet still invites you to draw near unto Him (James 4:8).
 - d. Have you ever agreed with God that you are sinner and headed for a devil's hell?
 - e. Are you willing to let go of your own pride and just trust God's word to be the only truth you will live by?
 - f. You cannot begin your walk until you and God are in agreement. If Jesus Christ is not your Saviour, then you and God will never get along, and God's wrath is against you (Jn. 3:36).
 - g. But if you repent of your sins and put your faith in Jesus Christ you can at peace with God through Jesus' cleansing blood. (Col. 1:20-22). It's never too late to begin walking with God, Enoch began at age ____!

2. Determine to Seek God Diligently – Take Firm Steps Towards God
3. Decide to Please God and Not Man. Memorise this verse to help you: Acts 5:29
4. Live like God's Promises are Perfectly Reliable and Sure (Heb 11:6)
 - a. "... *he that cometh to must believe that he _____!*"
 - b. God never stops being God, and will always be the God that you need! Oftentimes we want God to do what WE want, but He knows better! We need to allow Him to be Lord of our lives and trust and rest in His promises and wisdom. Remember "*that he is a rewarder of them*" that diligently _____ Him, please Him and trust him.
5. Take a Step of Sacrifice
 - a. When two people get married there is a great change in their daily lives! The Bible describes the church as the bride of Christ, therefore the Christian must understand that there are certain changes that must happen in their lives after they get saved.
 - b. Walk Away from Your Old Life. (2 Corinthians 6:17-18)
 - c. Walk in God's Ways, not your own any more
 - 1) Most of us can think of something God has had to deal with us about. For those of us who are still struggling to walk away from some besetting sin, it is simply because we haven't replaced those habits with godly ones! But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof. Rom. 13:14
 - 2) People might say old habits die hard, but they can and do die! (Col. 3:5; Phil. 4:13)
6. Take Every Step by Faith – this is the key!
 - a. But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. Heb. 11:6
 - b. Now we know how important it is to walk with God, God reminds us here in Hebrews 11:6 that absolutely all of our efforts to walk with God need to be done *by faith!*
 - c. God basically says without faith, you cannot walk with Him. Enoch sought God with such intensity and drew so close to Him that suddenly one day he vanished from the face of the earth! Everyone wondered where he had gone! Perhaps they wondered if they might find him dead somewhere around the place that he lived and worked? But he wasn't dead for Genesis 5:24 says "*God took him*". The great preacher Dr. Andrew A. Bonar said that Enoch took a long walk one day, and has not got back yet. God was so pleased with Enoch's walk that He took him to heaven where he could walk eternally. Hebrews 11:5 says that all of this happened by faith!

III. Review Questions

A. What does it mean that “*Enoch was translated*”? (Explain “rapture”)

B. What was Enoch’s testimony? _____

C. What is the ONLY way to please God? _____

D. What kind of a world did Enoch live in? _____

E. Describe what it means to “walk with God” _____

F. What is the first step to walking with God? _____

G. How should we seek God? _____

H. What two facts must the individual believe who wishes to approach God?

1. _____.

2. And that _____ the person who seeks Him.

Noah's Working Faith

Lesson 5

Hebrews 11:7 (Genesis 6:1-14)

Hebrews 11:7 *“By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.”*



I. Introduction (Genesis 6:1-7)

- A. There is a faith that so believes God, that when He speaks, we act. We will learn of Noah's faith that caused him to build a boat in a desert when it had never rained before upon the earth. This kind of faith will prompt action on our part as believers. This lesson will give us tools (by way of this man Noah) to believe God and take Biblical action in the face of unbelievable circumstances and situations we find ourselves.
- B. Noah live in a time when no one had ever experienced the WRATH of God. People were allowed to do whatever they wanted, without governments, or police, or churches. They just did whatever their heart and conscience wanted.
- C. Scripture in Gen. 6:5 tells us just how wicked the world became: *“And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every _____ of the thoughts of his heart was _____.”*
- D. Even though God is very patient with mankind, there comes a time, because of the rebellious sinful heart of man, that God says, enough is enough.
1. God will not always put up with (_____ with) mankind's sin. (Gen. 6:3)
 2. The Righteous _____ of all the earth WILL bring judgment because of His Righteous character (Gen.18:25)
- E. And it looked like every living person on the earth would have to die because of their sinful wickedness and rebellion against God.
- F. But there was one man that, in that perverse and wicked world, did RIGHT in the eyes of the Lord, and that man was Noah. Gen. 6:8 says, *“But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.”*
- G. The Bible says that Noah was a, *“Just man and perfect in his generation, and Noah _____”* (Gen.6:9)
- H. This is what gets God's attention! (Psalms 14:2-5) God looks at the heart and He saw in Noah a just man (a godly man) that was striving to do right.
- I. So, God's plan was to PRESERVE the human race through Noah and his descendants because ONLY THEY were willing to obey God and live godly in the midst of a wicked world!

II. Lesson

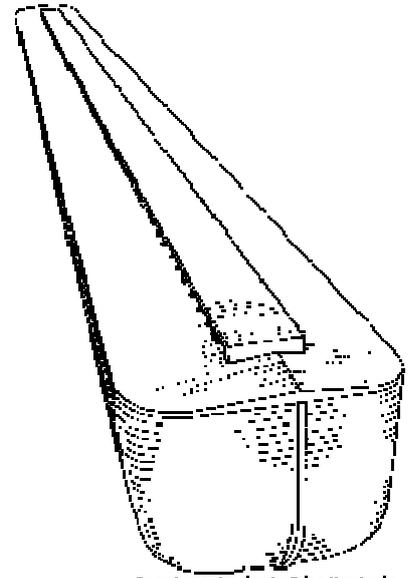
A. Noah had a Faith that Responds (Hebrews 11:7)

1. Noah believed God's words, especially His warnings! And that faith caused him to act!
2. He was Moved With Fear (Genesis 6:7,12-14)
 - a. Noah KNEW that God would do exactly what He had said He would do.
 - b. When we walk with God we must take His Word very serious, because we know that His Word will SURELY come to pass.(Psalm 138:2)
 - c. Noah and his generation had never experienced _____ (Gen 2:5), or any kind of flood, not even a local flood.
 - d. You see, before the flood things were very much different. They certainly would never have imagined any catastrophic events such as a worldwide flood where everything that had breath in it was to die. But, Noah feared God above all that he was ever use to, so he was moved with fear to prepare the Ark, for the saving of his house, against things, as of yet, NOT SEEN (Psalms 19:9, 1 Pet.1:17).
3. He Believed God instead of Other People

B. Noah had a Faith that Prepared

1. He first Prepared his Own Life
 - a. There was something different about Noah. Scripture doesn't say much about him before the flood, but evidently, he had been WARNED of consequences of sin that was rampant in the world.
 - b. It had been approximately 1,100 years since Adam, so history and knowledge would have been handed down quite accurately. He would have known just what would have happened in the garden and how God had judged the first transgression very soberly. Also, Enoch had walked with God prior to Noah, so he would have known and understood the nature and character of a HOLY God, and would have preached so dramatically about the coming wrath of God (see Jude 1:14,15).
 - c. Noah took God's warnings very serious, so that he kept pure from the sins of the world, and chose to just walk with God all his days!
2. He Worked Hard Doing What God said Do
 - a. The world had become wicked beyond measure, and the Bible says, "*that it _____ him in his heart*" (Gen.6:6), and that all flesh was corrupt (ruined) before Him. (Gen.6:11-13)
 - b. Even though God had to destroy the world, God's plan was to preserve the human race through the descendents of Noah and his family, simply because Noah found "GRACE" in the eyes of the Lord.

- c. Grace means “acceptance” and kindness.
 - d. God commissioned Noah to build an Ark of _____ wood.
 - e. He gave him all the details of width, height and, breadth. Genesis 6:15 tells us the Ark's dimensions were at least 135 metres long (300 cubits), 22.5 metres wide (50 cubits), and 13.5 metres high (30 cubits). That's 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high! (A cubit was the length of a man's arm from fingertips to elbow.)
 - f. God instructed Noah on the use of Pitch, as a water sealant, and how many windows, and how many floors to build (Gen. 6:14-16).
3. Noah was faithful in preparing and carrying out all that the Lord had commanded. (Gen.6:22)



Based on a drawing by Brian Newton in David C. Watson's book *Myths & Miracles*

C. Noah had a Faith that Overcomes

1. He Overcame Circumstances
 - a. Imagine waking up each morning, and spending the day building a huge boat, because you believed that God had told you to build it. It would have taken planning, and prudently gathering of all the raw materials that he was to use on the construction of the Ark. He didn't have a team of professional builders; all he had was himself and his three sons. God had given Noah the blue print, but all the rest of it was up the Noah.
 - b. Noah had to get the wood – loads of wood; and figure out how to build them together into a huge super-structure.
 - c. He would have to collect food for thousands and thousands of animals for a whole year.
 - d. The only thing he didn't have to do was go out and collect all the animals – God said that HE Himself would bring the animals that he wanted to save into the Ark (Gen 7:9)
 - e. Noah overcame every obstacle all along the way, because his FAITH was greater than his surrounding Circumstances. What a man of faith!
2. He Overcame Criticism

D. Noah had a Faith that Saves (Hebrews 11:7)

1. By building that crazy Ark, Noah was saved from the wrath of God that was coming into the world!
2. His confidence in God's warning saved not only HIS life, but the lives of everyone in his home.
3. Gen.6:17-21 says that only Noah and his family, as well as, only the animals on board would be preserved.

E. Noah had a Faith that Condemned!

1. Three things were accomplished as the result of Noah's obedience in building the Ark:
 - a. Noah saved his _____ (see Acts 16:30,31).
 - b. He _____.
 - c. And, he _____ of the kind of righteousness that can be produced only by faith toward God.

2. The purpose of the Ark was twofold:
 - a. It was to preserve Noah and his family.
 - b. But it was also an outward testimony to this world of the judgment that was to come, and that God rules!

3. This Judgment was:
 - a. A _____ Judgment: man had gone too far to the extreme where fallen angels were having relationships with the daughters of men. Hell was being populated by men and women that had pushed God so far away that there understanding and imagination was only evil continually (Gen. 6:5, Rom.1:21).
 - b. A Show of _____ – that God does not just react, but patiently gives opportunity for men to repent before judgment falls:
 - 1) In the previous years before the flood, God sent men like Enoch, who, the Bible says, WALKED with God and preached about the coming day of Judgment (Jude: verse 14,15).
 - 2) There was also the witness of Methuselah, one of the sons of Enoch, who had great significance in his name; his name meaning was “when he dies, Judgment comes” It is a revealing testimony about the patience of an all holy God, that kept him alive for 969 years. He is the oldest recorded person in the Bible.
 - 3) There also was the visual witness of Noah and his three of sons, faithfully each day, building the Ark. God always give a clear witness before Judgment falls.
 - c. A _____ Judgment: God never acts rashly; He is decisive in everything that He does. He had a plan and purpose to bring about the judgment of the wicked, yet the righteous like Noah and his family, would be preserved from the day of wrath. There are many examples of this in Scripture:
 - 1) Judgment on Egypt, yet the land of Goshen was protected (Ex 8:22).
 - 2) Judgment on Pharaoh's Army, after Israel passes through the Red Sea on dry ground (Ex. 14:14-18).
 - 3) Judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah, after the righteous are taken out. (Gen 18:23-33).

- 4) And for the Christian living TODAY! The Blessed HOPE of the Rapture of the Church, before the wrath of an all Holy God descends upon the unregenerate world in the time of the Tribulation.

F. Noah had a Faith that Finished

1. Noah was a starter of the work, and Noah was also a finisher of the work that God gave him to do. I am sure there were many low days in the life of Noah and his family. After all, he was only human, with frailties like us all. Yet, the Bible says, that Noah WALKED with God and in that walk, he got the strength to KEEP going. I am sure if he had thought of the big picture it would have been very overwhelming. He simply focused on the day had hand. Yet, this is what FAITH is all about. God didn't tell Noah to worry about the future, or try to convince people of the coming Judgment. God said to Noah, build an ark, and that is what Noah did. Each day, patiently going at it until the ark was complete.
2. As Christians, God has told us from his WORD, certain clear things to do. We need to be starters and finishers, come what may (Acts. 20:24, 1 Cor 16:13).

III. Review Questions

- A. What emotion caused Noah to prepare an ark when there was no visible evidence that a flood was coming? _____—a fear resulting from his faith that God would do exactly what He had said He would do.
- B. What three things were accomplished as the result of Noah's obedience in building the Ark?
 1. _____.
 2. _____.
 3. _____.
- C. Faith is always associated with _____. In the case of Noah, it was the building of an ark, as a witness against an ungodly world that had to be judged.
- D. Even in global judgment of that magnitude, what is always present?
_____.
- E. Noah had many obstacles to overcome. He did the impossible by simply doing what? _____.
- F. What if Noah had only half completed the ark? What good would it be?
_____.
- G. We as Christians are privileged to be a part of the Body of Christ, each of us have a unique position in the Local Church. Each of us has a finish line to reach and a course to Run. What good is starting something unless we are willing to finish it? (Lk. 14:28-33)

Abraham's Obedient Faith

Lesson 6

Hebrews 11:8-10 (Genesis Chapters 12-15)

Hebrews 11:8 *“By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.”*

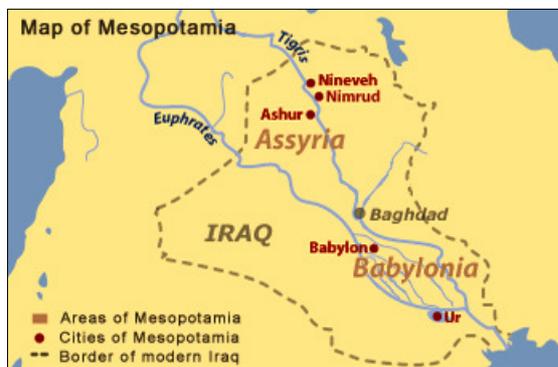
I. Introduction

- A. Obedience seems to be a lost character trait in Christians today. This lesson will reveal to us a man's calling to go to a place he didn't know, and his response was he "..._____"; *and he went out, not knowing whither he went.*
- B. We really need to let this lesson sink down deep into our hearts as we learn about a faith that obeys God's word. This faith is needed daily in our life as Christians.

II. Lesson

A. Abraham's Background (Read Genesis 11:27-32)

1. Abraham's name at first was _____. Abram means "Father of a nation."
2. Abram lived in an area known as _____ of the Chaldees (Mesopotamia in modern Iraq). After God had confused man's language at Babel, Abram's father, Terah settled in Ur.
3. Abram had two brothers, Nahor and Haran.
4. Abram was married to _____ who was 10 years younger than him. After many years of marriage, she couldn't have any children and was barren (Gen 11:30).
5. Abram's family were _____, they served other gods than the God of heaven. Josh 24:2 says, *“And Joshua said unto all the people, thus saith the Lord God of Israel, your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, even Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nacho: and they served other _____.”*
6. So, the descendants of Noah had descended into idolatry and needed to be saved from their sinfulness and the coming judgment for their sins!



B. Abram's Calling

1. According to Isaiah 51:1-2 God is telling us that Abram was "digged" out of a hole of a pit. They also tell us that only Abram was called, not his wife nor his family. They simply followed him

2. Read Genesis 12:1-3. In these verses it can be seen that God called Abram to separate from (come away from) his present world including his family, his country, and head for a land that he had never seen. God also made him 3 promises that He asked Abram to believe:
 - a. That God will make of him a great nation
 - b. That God would bless him and make his name great, and that he would be a blessing
 - c. And that *“In thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed”*
3. God met with Abram somewhere in Ur and spoke these promises to him directly and on the basis of God's Word, Abram obeyed God.
4. Were these promises conditional or unconditional? See verse 12:1. The fulfilment of God's promises are always based upon our obedience (Romans 6:17).

C. Abram's Obedience

1. In Genesis 12:1 God said *“...get thee out”*. In verse 4 we read *“So Abram departed _____, and Abram was seventy five years old when he departed out of Haran”*.
2. So what does obedient faith look like? It is more than just the initial response to God's call. It includes the following characteristics. It is a faith that separates, grows, cares, and saves!
 - a. A faith that separates
 - 1) Right from the beginning God called Abram to leave his family (kindred), his land and his father's house, and go. We know that he obeyed in verse 12:4 with the words *“So Abram departed as the Lord had spoken unto him...”* Abram left Ur, and then Haran.
 - 2) Notice that in Gen 13:2-13, Abram and Lot _____.
 - 3) Although Lot was saved, when he was given the choice of where he would live, he served the world not the Lord (see Gen 13:9,10). Notice the phrase in verse 10 *“and Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld...”* What two cities? _____ and _____. Lot had no idea what he was looking at – he just looked at the beauty and the opportunities those cities presented to him. He walked after the flesh (it looked good). He never asked God for direction.
 - 4) The result of Abram separating himself from his past, the world and carnal believers was a fellowship with God. Separation brings fellowship (Gen 17:1-2).
 - 5) An obedient faith is a faith that separates a believer from his past, his old friends, his family and the world, and sets him on a journey into God's will. God honours this obedience with fellowship (with Himself) and protection. (see verse Gen 15:1 *“Fear not Abram I am thy shield and thy exceeding great reward”*). He also confirms his promises (reveals his will) in greater detail. See verse Gen 13:17. You are

standing on the land that I will give to you. He was literally standing on the promise.

- 6) What area or areas of separation are causing you to remain in YOUR Haran?
 - 7) Abraham lived like a _____ in a foreign country (Gen. 12:1).
 - a) Didn't become like those around him!
 - b) Although Abraham was extremely wealthy he chose to live in tents, just as was true of his fellow-heirs, Isaac and Jacob.
 - c) Each Christian disciple is to live in this present world as an alien in a foreign country. If he does, not attempting to become rich in the things of the world, he will inherit the earth at the coming of the Lord. The farthest reaches of the earth and the nations thereof are the inheritance of Christ and His co-heirs (Ps 2:8).
- b. A faith that increases (Lk. 17:5)
- 1) Read Gen 12:7,8 When Abram reached Canaan, God appeared to him and communed with him. Abram's response was to build an altar and call on the name of the Lord. So Abram began to worship God and call on His name. When you do God's will, He rewards you with His presence and this will strengthen your walk. In verse 7 you are told that God appeared to Abram and confirmed his promise *"Unto thy seed will I give this land"*
 - 2) With this promise, Abram must have thought that he had arrived. He must have thought that the journey was over, but it was only beginning. A famine forced him to seek food and shelter in Egypt (Read Gen 12:10-20). God uses this trial to test, and then strengthen his faith:
 - a) In verse 11,12 He _____ for his life
 - b) In verse 13 He sought to escape using his own wisdom
 - c) In verse 15 His plan backfires
 - d) In verse 17 God intervenes in the heart (Prov 21:1)
 - 3) Abram did not seek God's will when he found himself in the famine. It may be that God wanted him to prove Him in the famine. His subsequent problems were self inflicted as a result of being outside of God's will. The lesson for us in this time is to stay put, and ride out this financial famine that we are going through. Maybe God is giving us an opportunity to prove him too! (i.e. church building)

c. A faith that cares. Read Gen 13:12-13; 14:8-16.

- 1) Lot made a bad choice by living close to wickedness. Eventually Lot went to live inside the city of Sodom. Lot gets caught up in the affairs of Sodom and when the city goes to war he is taken captive and is led away with the other inhabitants into bondage.
- 2) Verse 8-12 is an account of the first war in the Bible. The invaders were four kings who rebelled against the government of Chedor-laomer. They had served him 12 years and in the 13th year, they rebelled. These kings took away the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah. They also took Lot, Abram's nephew. This is a picture of a Christian who gets too close to the world or becomes entangled in worldly affairs. Eventually they are taken captive because they have lost their freedom to chose by giving in to temptation. Alcohol, drugs, TV, music, Lotto, games/sports, etc are some of the snares that the enemy employs to take you captive. Anything that prevents you from serving God has actually taken you captive. When the world takes you captive, it takes everything. See verse Gen 14:11.
- 3) In Gen 14:13 we are told that "*And there came one that had escaped and told Abram the Hebrew.*" Abram finds out that his nephew Lot is taken captive. Straightaway he organises his household and all his servants into an army and goes after the enemy to bring his nephew back from slavery and captivity!
- 4) When the world takes one of our brothers or sisters captive and we are made aware of it, how do you respond? Have you ever visited or phoned someone who no longer attends church. Would you like to know that someone cared enough to come looking for you? An obedient faith cares about others – even the "Lots".

d. Abram's saving faith (Read Gen 15:1-6)

- 1) Abram is getting older and is still childless. God takes him outside shows him the stars of heaven and says "*So shall thy seed be*"
- 2) That's when Abram believed the promise! Gen 15:6 "*And he believed in the Lord; and he (God) counted it to him for righteousness.*" It was worked out in his life as he was obedient (Gen. 22:9-10)
- 3) This is a very important verse as you will see from the New Testament.
 - a) Paul refers back to this event in Romans 4:18-25 and says that Abram "*_____ not at the promise of God through _____; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being _____ that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.*"
 - b) Abram's **FAITH** was imputed to him for righteousness. Paul says that it was not written for him alone but **for us** also if we believe on him that raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.

- c) Gal 3:6-9 and see that in verse 8 that the gospel was preached in the Old Testament. You are saved the same way that Abraham was by grace through the obedience of faith. (Rom 16:25,26; Ephesians 2:8,9)

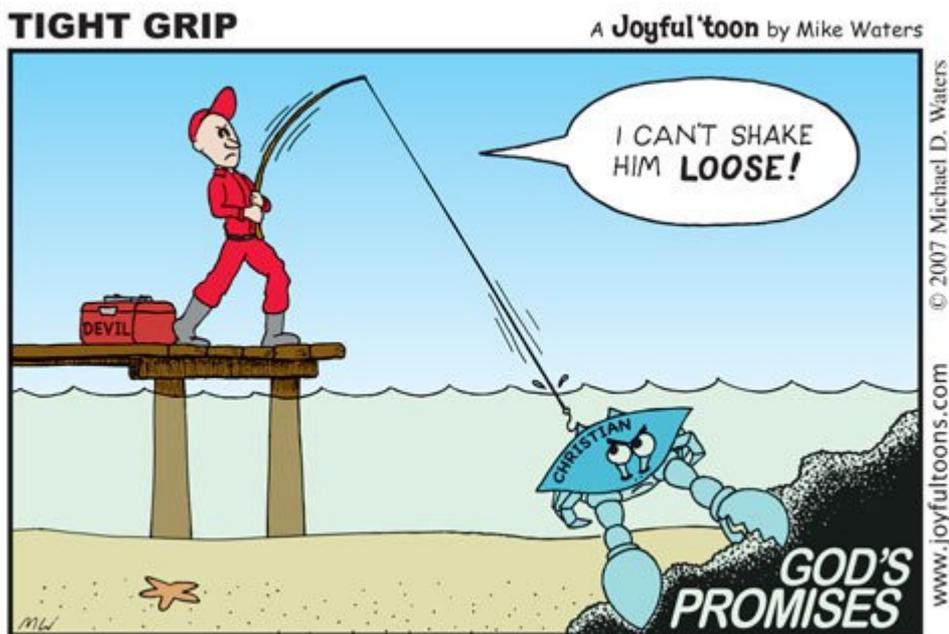
III. Review Questions

- A. What was the response of Abraham when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance? _____
- B. Abraham's name at first was what? _____.
- C. Abraham lived at first in what city?

- D. List one of the three impossible promises that God made to Abraham: _____

- E. What could God ask you to separate yourself from if it comes between you and the will of God?
 - 1. _____.
 - 2. _____.
- F. What will God honour a believer with if they would obey God and break from things that come between them and God's will?

- G. What city did Lot end of living in? _____
- H. Did Abraham ever again sin? _____
_____.
- I. What was imputed to Abraham for righteousness sake?



Abraham's Tested Faith

Lesson 7

Hebrews 11:17-19 (Genesis 22:1-19)

Faith is always _____!

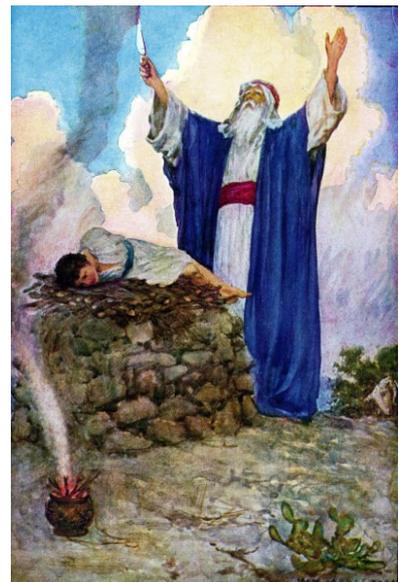
Hebrews 11:17-19 *“By faith Abraham, when he was _____, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: _____ that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.”*

I. Introduction

- A. The most precious and important things to us, belong to God!
- B. Offering up something to God is a free will response to the command of God
- C. Abraham overruled his senses and decided to live by faith by...
 1. “Accounting” – reckoning on the power of God to resurrect Isaac
 2. Trusting in the promise of God *“That in Isaac shall thy seed be called”*
 3. Allowing God to use his testing for a greater purpose – to be a “_____” and example for all believers!!!

II. Lesson

- A. Abraham was told to leave Beer-Sheba, in the land of the Philistines, and to journey to the land of Moriah. He was told that there he would have to sacrifice his only son, Isaac. Isaac was God’s promised son to Abraham. (Gen 22:1,2)
- B. Abraham rose up early and left with Isaac and two of his servants. They brought the _____ for the burnt offering with them. (Gen 22:3)
- C. The journey took _____ days. (Gen 22:4)
Usually an important event took place when the Bible mentions three days.
- D. When they arrived to the mount, Abraham separated himself and Isaac from his servants, and told them to wait at the bottom. He told them that he and Isaac would *“come again to you.”* They were going up the mountain to “_____” the LORD. This is the first time in the Bible this word is used. (Gen 22:5)
- E. As they left the servants, Abraham placed the wood upon Isaac’s back. He then took a knife and firebrand for the sacrifice. Isaac noticed one important ingredient was missing for the sacrifice – the lamb. Abraham told Isaac that *“God will provide _____ a lamb”* for the offering. (Gen 22:6-8)
- F. Abraham built an altar and laid the wood in order at the location God told him. He then bound Isaac and laid him upon the altar. Abraham then stretched forth his hand with the knife and prepared to slay his only son. (Gen 22:9, 10)



- G. Before Abraham struck, the angel of the LORD called unto him from Heaven and told him to not harm his son. God saw the determination in Abraham's heart to do whatever God asked him to do. Abraham showed God that He was the _____ priority of his heart and life. (Gen 22:11, 12)
- H. Abraham was then shown a ram (a male sheep) that was caught by its horns in a thicket, and offered it in the place of Isaac. (Gen 22:13, 14)
- I. After the sacrifice and proving of his faith, the angel reminded Abraham of God's promise that He would multiply his seed as the stars of heaven and that in his seed all nations would be blessed. The angel also told Abraham that his seed would possess the gates of his enemies. (Gen 22:15-18). That just simply means that Abraham's descendants would conquer every enemy one day.
- J. Once they finished worshipping the LORD, Abraham returned with Isaac to his servants and they departed back to Beer-Sheba. (Gen 22:19)

III. Spiritual and Life Applications

- A. Abraham believed that Isaac would live again after he sacrificed him. (Heb 11:17-19) He knew that God promised to bless his seed through Isaac and that God would not break His promises. He did not know how God would keep Isaac alive, and even believed that God would raise him up from the dead in order to keep His promise. He believed God's Word.
- B. Isaac noticed that they had the wood and fire for the burnt offering, but he was unsure of why his father did not bring an animal to be sacrificed. He did not realize that he was showing a divine picture of what was going to happen to Jesus. This is why John the Baptist called Jesus the " of God" in John 1:26 and in John 1:39. Abraham declared that God would provide Himself a lamb, but he did not realize that it would be GOD'S only Son.
- C. When he bound Isaac, Isaac was old enough to fight off his father when he realized that he was to be the sacrifice. The scholar Josephus believed Isaac to be at least 25 years old and Abraham 125 years old at this time. Instead of struggling and questioning his father, Isaac instead let his father bind him and lay him upon the altar. He had the utmost faith in what his father was doing and trusted him with his life. Jesus also did not struggle with the soldiers when He was bound to the cross. He went _____. He knew it was the _____ to complete His Father's will and had complete trust in their divine plan. Jesus' humanity and flesh did not want to die, but He knew that it was the only way to pay for the sin of all mankind.
- D. God showed Abraham the exact location of where to build the altar. God did not show him where specifically at in Beer-Sheba, but only once he arrived in Moriah. This shows that God has a divine plan for us all, and that He shows us with each step and not the end destination until it is time to be there. God does not show us the complete picture of His will for each of us individually on earth the moment we become saved. I believe it is because we cannot handle it at that time, but He shows us more of His will as we grow in our trust and obedience to Him.

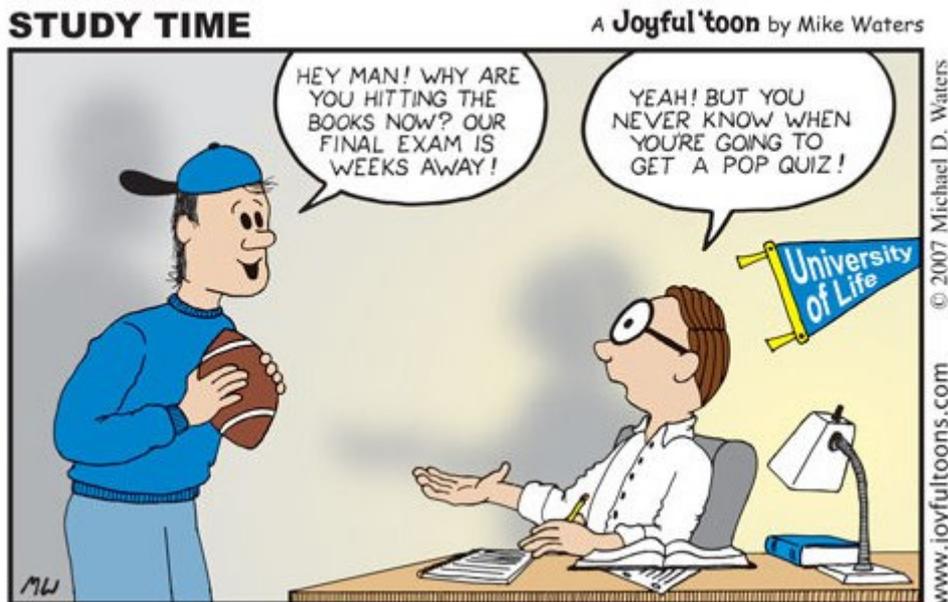
- E. Abraham called the place Jehovah-jirah, which means “*The LORD will provide.*” God not only provided the ram for Abraham to sacrifice, but scholars often believe that it alludes of God providing the ultimate sacrifice for all of sin – Jesus Christ. Many believe that Jesus was crucified in the same spot where Abraham was going to offer up Isaac.
- F. Abraham was given the promise from God because of his obedience to the LORD. Also, the promise of his seed possessing the gate of his enemies was also a prophecy of when Jesus would rise again from the grave and have power over Death and Satan once and for all.
- G. What does Abraham’s experience teach us about faith?
 1. That we often must wait a long while before we receive the fullness of what God has promised to us.
 2. True faith embraces the promise of God and then waits patiently for the fulfilment.

IV. Review Questions

- A. When Abraham left with Isaac and two of his servants, they travelled how many days to get to Mount Moriah?

- B. Abraham said that they were going up the mountain to do what?

- C. When Abraham was about to kill his only son, he told Isaac that God would provide what? _____
- D. John the Baptist called Jesus the “_____ of God” in John 1:26
- E. The word “Jehovah-jirah” means what? “_____.”
_____.



Sarah's Impossible Faith

Lesson 8

Hebrews 11:11,12 (Genesis 17:1-8, 15-17; 21:1-3)

Hebrews 11:11,12 *“Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.”*

I. Introduction - (Romans 1:17) - We are learning to “Live By Faith!”

- A. There is so much to living by faith, that God filled the pages of the Bible with the recorded examples of hundreds of lives. Then, in Hebrews 11, God settles for 26 people to present as His honour role, who receive a good report card for their “faith,” their confidence in God. It is sort of a condensed history of faith.
- B. There are various stages of faith: from ____ faith, to _____ faith, to _____ faith, to _____ faith, to _____ faith, and finally to _____ faith. Just like anything, faith needs to grow - and that is what this chapter is all about - feeding our faith so that it grows.
- C. Sarah started off with very little faith, but in time, through many failures and times of testings, her faith finally grew to the point where she judged God faithful enough to keep His promises, no matter how impossible they may be!

II. Review

- A. **The Definition of Faith** (11:1) Faith is ME believing what God said enough to obey Him, trusting that everything will work out right!
- B. **Faith _____ God's Word** - (11:3) - That's the faith we have toward this Book! We are able to understand Creation, Consistency, and the Conclusion of everything, because we just believe God's word!
- C. **Faith _____ God's Substitute** - *Rewarded with Salvation* (11:4) - Abel (Genesis 4) - the faith we have toward Christ! It pays our sin-debt, and changes our life!
- D. **Faith _____ With God like Enoch did** – *he was Rewarded with Translation* (11:5; Gen 5) - We use faith as we walk through each day, trial, joy, just living it with Jesus, looking forward to the same Rapture!
- E. **Faith _____ God** (11:6) To live by faith means to seek to please God HIS way, by believing that HE is all you need, and by diligently seeking HIM, not just His blessings (Acts 13:22)!
- F. **Faith _____, like Noah's did** (11:7). Learned to develop a **kind of Faith that Works** When we walk with the Lord, trusting, and OBEYING (Busy WORKING, and DOING what He says to do), then you will be successful (Josh 1:8; Ps 1)!
- G. **Abraham taught us that Faith _____!** (11:8-10)! When told to do something by God, he simply obeyed every time. When promised children, he simply believed!

H. **This week - Faith Believes in the God of the Impossible** - (Heb 11:11,12; Gen 17:19 - 22:2) A Christian's Faith is Rewarded with Ability (we all think we "can't" do such and such, yet with God all things are possible. Mk 10:27)

1. God promised Abraham a very large family (Gen 17:1-8). Not just to be a Daddy, but the father of many nations – that is what his name means.
2. God promised to give Abraham all those children through his 65 year old wife named Sarah. It wouldn't be that unusual in those days for a 65 year old woman to have babies. So both Abraham and Sarah gladly believed God's promise at first – simply because it was possible. But in time, they will both learn to believe God's promise, simply because GOD promised it!

III. Message – Having Impossible Faith like Sarah (Gen 17:15-17; 21:1-3)

A. **Sarah was a great woman, who was going to become greater!** (Gen 17:15)

1. Her name at first was _____, which means noble, and good.
2. Through this challenge, God is going to change her name to **Sarah**, which means *princess*. A Noble person is a good person. A Princess is a LEADER!
3. Sarah will become a great example of faith to all women everywhere, and for all time (1Peter 3:5,6)

B. **Sarah was married to a man who had great faith - Abram!**

1. It must have been wonderful being married to man who loved God most of all. Most men really only love themselves, and they are hard to love!
2. Abram was becoming a very great man financially. He seemed to be becoming wealthier and richer every year as God blessed him.
3. But what mattered most to Abraham was his relationship with God, and his family... Except... he had no family, except his wife.
4. But that was okay. God had told Abram that he would have so many children that he would one day have as many as there are stars in the sky!
5. But from the time that Sarah was 65 years old, and for the next 25 years, Sarah struggled to believe that God would keep His promise.
6. The longer God took, the more impossible it seemed!
7. Just as God had asked Abram to believe God enough to obey Him, so also was God challenging Sarah to believe God enough to trust Him, that He knows what He is doing.

C. **What was it God asked of Sarah?** To be willing - available for a miracle!

1. To be willing, and trust God enough to go through all of the following:
2. To be willing to get pregnant – at 65 years old, and then at 90 years of age
3. To be willing to give birth – very dangerous at 90 years of age
4. To be willing to train up the child as a mother – hard work, put up with the many sleepless nights, and home schooling lessons during the day.

D. What was against Sarah? (Heb 11:11)

1. Weakness - physically incapable of doing what God asked of her
 - a. She never had any children before
 - b. She was too old to get pregnant
 - c. She was way too old to be having a baby – it would normally kill her
 - d. So God would have to give her *supernatural* strength
2. She was past age - God gave her the ability to conceive anyway!
3. Dangers of childbirth - God brought her through it!
4. Time (feared not being around as the child grew) - lived 37 more years!

**E. What was Her Source of Strength? (Heb 11:12)**

1. _____ (Rom 10:17). This promise was the source of so much of her determination through all the waiting, and then the pregnancy, and finally the dangerous delivery.
2. _____ - had already led her by example in following the Lord. Thank God for godly examples (husband, Mom, wife [1Pet 3:1-6]).

F. What was the Result? (Gen 17:19)

1. A baby boy named “_____” – His name means, “_____” and “_____” in her life - this is the proof of the other side of the step of faith (Heb 12:2) – which usually looks deadly, but comes out _____ (Eccl 3:11)!
2. God was honoured - Sarah was not the real hero here! She did great, but all the attention should be on the Lord God of heaven!
 - a. Same with school work, and any accomplishment in life (Ps. 100)
 - b. Oh how God could be honoured by our lives if we just got in the habit of praising Him for what He does on a day by day basis!
3. The nation of Israel had its beginnings - a supernatural race of people that God would use (in spite of all their imperfections) to bring the Lamb of God (the Messiah) into the world.
4. Israel becoming innumerable - as stars of the sky, and sand of seashore.
5. NOTE: Sarah did not name a child and then claim it! It was promised, and she simply believed the Promiser (Heb 10:23; Rom 4:20,21)
 - a. It is the same with **salvation** - just accept what God _____!
 - b. It is the same with **everything** in the Christian's life (Philp 4:13)!

G. What Struggles Did Sarah Have With Believing God? (Gen. 16:1-5)

1. The time it was taking for God to fulfil His promise
2. The fact that her faith was not as strong as her husband's

3. That God could still fulfil His promise, no matter what she did that was against it. What did Sarah do that hindered God's promises?
 - a. She doubted a lot
 - b. She got impatient. She acted without God by deciding that Hagar (Gen 16:1-4) should give them a son instead of God (to Sarah, God had either forgotten them or had failed them)
 - c. She got angry at her husband instead of herself (Gen 16:5)
4. None of the above helped her receive the promise! Sarah was going to have to just simply believe God enough to trust that God would keep His promise, no matter how impossible, and no matter how long it took!!!

IV. Conclusion - Sarah is Another Example of Living By Faith. True Faith Believes in the God of the Impossible. Sarah's Faith was Rewarded with Ability

- A. There was a lot against Sarah - but if God be for us, who can be against us?
- B. Sarah's Source for faith was enough - the word of God, and the confidence of her husband!
- C. What was the result? The ability to do whatever God needed to do through her
- D. Sarah simply believed that what God promised, _____ was able to perform!
 1. It is the same with **salvation** - just accept what God _____!
 2. It is the same with **everything** in the Christian's life (Philp 4:13)!
- E. What impossible situations does God have for you? Follow His word - Follow Sarah's example!
 1. Faith Accomplishes the Impossible - Sarah - Rewarded with Ability
 2. Sarah did NOT tell God to give her a child. She just accepted what God offered to her, no matter how impossible it would be!
- F. Same with forgiveness, and eternal life!

V. Review Questions

- A. Sarah name at first was what? _____
- B. Sarah was married to a man who had great faith. What was his name?

- C. What was it God asked of Sarah? _____
- D. What was against Sarah? _____
- E. What was her sources of strength? _____
- F. What did God give Sarah when she just decided to trust God to keep His promise? _____
- G. How hard did Sarah find it to trust God? _____.
- H. BONUS QUESTION. What impossible situations does God have for you?

Heavenly Faith

Lesson 9

Hebrews 11:12-16 (2Cor 4:16-18)

Faith Extends _____ the Grave – *Faith Endures*

Hebrews 11:16 “*But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city*”



I. Introduction (Hebrews 11:12-16)

A. Biblical Faith Reaches Beyond the Grave, and into Eternity

1. Many of God’s promises that He gave to His people were still unfulfilled at their death. Does that mean that God failed to fulfil any of His promises? It would sure seem so!
 - a. At Abraham’s death, he only had eight children, starting with Ishmael, and then Isaac, and after the death of Sarah, he had 6 more children by Keturah (Gen 25:1,2)
 - b. But that was far short of the almost infinite number of children he was supposed to have (Gen 15:5)
 - c. So, God’s promise would be fulfilled throughout generations, and across a long stretch of time, not just in Abraham’s lifetime!
 - d. The same is _____ for us today!
 - e. Abraham is still having children through the _____, and through _____ who get adopted into his family!
 - f. The Bible believer trusts that whatever God promises, He will do, even beyond death!
 - g. Some of God’s promises are eternal, and are fulfilled for the rest of eternity!
 - h. That’s why we can look forward with *an Heavenly Faith* towards the fulfilment of _____ God’s promises!
2. Heavenly Faith looks for the fulfilment of God’s promises not all in this life, but also in the world to come

B. Evidently there are many believers whom God is ashamed that He is called their God! So, our faith HAS to be _____ than what comes naturally!

C. This is a faith that must keep focused, zeroed in on something greater, higher, and stronger – God Almighty. This faith is also a very _____ faith and is needed every day, in every part of our lives.

II. Lesson (Read Hebrews 11:12-16)

- A. Heb 11:12 - God did such a miraculous thing not only with Abraham, but in and through Abraham. Out of the loins of one man God was going to make a nation. The amazing thing also is that Abraham was considerably well into his old age and his wife Sarah well past child bearing age. Out of the life of one

man and his barren life God made a promise to bring forth a nation. This was going to be a people more in number than the sand on the sea shore. Wow!

- B. Heb 11:13 - Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, their wives and their families all died not having seen the promises that God made to them completely fulfilled in their lifetime. They didn't have just faith, but rather, they had heavenly faith. They _____ God had prepared a country they had never seen because they developed and then focused their faith on a heavenly country.
- C. These all died believing that God would make of them a great nation, and give them a land to live in that would be theirs. It is amazing to see that the heavenly faith they had in the Promised Land influenced them to live a life of trial, and hardship at times. Why, because they firmly believed in God and what He had promised.
- D. Even though Abraham, Sarah and Isaac all died not having received the promises they were determined to do the following by faith:

1. See the fulfilment “ _____ ”

- a. Faith sees what God promises. It is not visualizing what WE want to see, but seeing what God has _____.
- b. As you read and study God's word, let your mind imagine God actually supplying your every need; imagine God being right there with you and never leaving you or forsaking you; imagine God showing you His perfect will for your life and providing that wife or husband or job that you have come to trust Him alone for!
- c. The promises that God makes may not be fulfilled quickly, but they will be _____!
- d. Some races are short and are over quick. But some races are long and drawn out. Just keep your eyes on the Finish Line and stay confident in your Great God!



2. Be persuaded of them – what does “persuaded” mean?

- a. Abraham was so persuaded that God would give him innumerable children through his son Isaac that he was willing to sacrifice Isaac, knowing that God would just raise him back up from the dead in order to keep His promise! THAT is Biblical confidence in God's promises!
- b. Faith is not a guess, or a flimsy kind of hope that something will happen. Real, Biblical faith is a _____ in the Person who promised!
- c. Noah was confident it was going to rain! He could imagine the rain coming, and he was persuaded that the only way to save his family was to obey God and build the Ark!

3. Embrace the promises as if they were the very fulfilment itself

- a. Sometimes we don't know how to act when we are waiting on God. When our hands or our pockets or our stomachs are empty it is hard to know what to say or do.

- b. But with God's promises, we can act like we already HAVE the fulfilment because the PROMISE is just as good as the fulfilment!
 - c. Hannah is a great example of praying and asking God to supply her need for a baby boy, and when she finished praying, she acted like the baby was on his way (1Sam 1:5-10, 18-20! She had no doubts and no hesitation about it after that!
4. And confessed that they were strangers and “_____” on the earth.
- a. Anyone who lives trusting the God of heaven, will start to feel “out of sync” with the world around them.
 - b. Our lives are so attached to this world anymore, because our lives will live on, and we will experience all of God's blessings throughout eternity, instead of only in this life!
 - c. Abraham, as wealthy as he had become, was willing and quite content to just live in a tent throughout his life because he had a better home waiting for him in heaven – just as we do too!
 - d. So don't invest all your time and monies here in this life (Mt 6:19,20).
- E. Heb 11:14 - If we are to declare ourselves strangers and pilgrims here as the Abraham and his descendants did then we had better be walking the talk. When we declare ourselves Christians then we ought to _____ like Christians. If we really believe God has prepared wonderful things for us as Christians (1Cor.2:9) then that should cause us to behave like something is so wonderfully prepared and waiting for us.
- F. Heb 11:15 - Our greatest hindrance to our direction now in this life is **looking back at the old life**. (Luke 9:62) The devil loves to make _____ convenient for us. He will try his best to make life's circumstances a stepping stone **backward** instead of trusting God to go **forward**. Think how the world would be different if Abraham had turned back to Ur. What if he had not trusted God and left his homeland for a better country, a heavenly one? Abraham had plenty of sins, weaknesses and faults, but he never looked back! He trusted God and went out not knowing where he was going. Which direction is YOUR faith facing???
- G. Heb 11:16 – All of these people who lived by faith desired a country that God referred to as “*a heavenly country*.” By faith they were looking forward to something God had for them in the future. God was actually honoured by their faith and was called “*the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob*.” Oh, that we would trust God so that He would be inclined to call Himself the God of _____ (fill in your name). The New Jerusalem one day will be full of men and women who trusted God's promises “...*having seen them afar off*.”

III. Application

- A. As Abraham believed God, the Lord brought forth an entire nation from one man. All the descendants of Abraham (most especially the Patriarchs and leaders) of Abraham lived lives of faith without yet receiving the promise of land that God was going to give them. They trusted in the Lord anyway, seeing

the end of their faith. So, God will not fail in His promise to bless Abraham's descendants as a people with their own land.

- B. Think... would you believe the promise that God made like Abraham did?
- C. What are you trusting God for right now that is impossible?
- D. We need to remember that we are also strangers and pilgrims as they were.
- E. We influence so many people by our testimony of our heavenly faith.
- F. We must live as if we really believe God and the Bible.
- G. If we talk the talk (about faith) we must also walk the walk.
- H. We must not nor cannot go back to our old ways, where we quit, and give up.
- I. God is working in us something for His glory.
- J. 2Corinthians 4:16-18 *For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is _____ day by day For our light affliction, which is but for a _____, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

IV. What Christians MUST Do

- A. Keep your eyes on heaven – on heavenly things – eternal things (Col 3:1-3). Agree with God that this world is not our home, but heaven is.
- B. Believe, trust and obey all of the Bible's promises – embrace = love, welcome, draw close to you those promises!
- C. Our constant and daily _____ of walking with God in obedience will help us not backslide.
- D. Our love for the things God loves and believing in His promises (to the point of daily walk of obedience) make the Lord unashamed of us and not always grieving over our sinful ways.
- E. Remember that everything that God does is perfect and that we just need to trust Him in such a way that it _____ the way we live.

V. Review Questions

- A. Were any of God's promises that He gave to His people were still unfulfilled at their death? _____
- B. Does that mean that God failed to fulfil any of His promises? _____
- C. Are there believers whom God is ashamed that He is called their God? _____
- D. What can a Bible believer "see" that other people can't see?

- E. What does it mean to "be persuaded of them?" _____

- F. What does it mean when the Bible says that we are strangers and pilgrims on the earth? _____
- G. What is the "better country" that all Christians look forward to? _____
- H. What are YOU trusting God for right now that is impossible?

Isaac's Future Faith

Lesson 10

Hebrews 11:20 (Genesis 27 – 28)

Biblical Faith Prepares the Next Generation for a Godly Life.

Hebrews 11:20 *“By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.”*

I. Introduction

- A. We've already seen from Hebrews 11:13 that faith can see things “afar off”. Faith can see promises that might not even be fulfilled in our lifetime. Yet faith will still embrace these truths and be fully persuaded that God will surely bring them to pass. In this lesson, we will learn about a Future Faith that blesses our families even unto our children's children!
- B. This is the kind of faith that springs from knowing the _____! Because we know that God has great things planned, we know that we can encourage people to live for the future instead under the burden of the past!



Isaac gave his blessing to Jacob.

II. Lesson

A. Future Faith _____ People

1. Because of Isaac's godly Dad and his own personal faith in God, he was able to bless his son's lives abundantly. He was able to not just express a desire for good in their lives, but by faith he could rest assured that the blessings he spoke of would surely come to pass.
2. What is a blessing?
 - a. To bless means to speak good or well of something. It is not only heartfelt desire but literally spoken words of benefit towards another. It both encourages and envisions what God wants to do in a person's future.
 - b. In the Bible you see two types of blessings, _____ and _____.
3. God loves blessings
 - a. A word spoken in due season, how good is it! Prov. 15:23
 - b. God blessed His creation – Gen. 1:22
 - c. God blessed mankind – Gen. 1:28
 - d. He commanded the priests to _____ Israel – Num. 6:22-27
 - e. Jesus rebuked the disciples for discouraging little children to come and be blessed by Him – Mark 10:13-16
 - f. God the Father blessed His Son Jesus – 2Pet. 1:17

4. Christians ought to be “blessers”!
 - a. We ought to bless God – Psa. 103:1-2, 1Pet. 1:3 (make Him happy with our words)
 - b. We ought to bless one another – 1Tim. 1:2; 2Jn. 1:3
 - c. We ought to bless our enemies! – Matt. 5:44
 - d. *“Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, _____ to the soul, and _____ to the bones.”* Prov. 16:24

B. Future Faith Influences (and Protects)

1. The blessings of future faith are important because of the extraordinary power of spoken words (Prov. 18:21). Isaac received blessings from God through his father Abraham that would reach well beyond his lifetime, and in Hebrews 11:20, we see him pass those blessings on to his sons. Isaac is powerfully influencing his sons' lives and even providing for them when he gives them his blessing.
2. In contrast, God forbid that we should withhold blessings from others. The opposite word for blessing is _____. Whereas a blessing is connected with fruitfulness and increase, a curse means barrenness and emptiness. If God commands us to bless our enemies, how much more ought we to bless our precious families?
3. To invest in your family's future, there is always something that needs to be done now. Whether it's putting aside money for college or teaching them to have good manners! Isaac's future faith prompted action in his daily life! Parents, to believe God for the future blessing of your kids you need to:
 - a. Personally walk with God yourself! – Psa. 128:1
 - b. Set a godly example for your children – Prov. 20:7
 - c. Provoke them to love and good works, rather than to anger – Heb. 10:24; Col. 3:21
4. Have you blessed your children? If not, will you today? Many a child has longed to hear the loving and caring words of a blessing and never received them. A person like this will begin to look for someone or something else to try and fill that void. What does Jesus say about a person who offends a child? – Matt. 18:6

C. A Future Kind of Faith Overcomes the Past

1. It is important that we bless our children and new believers concerning the future
2. But to do that, a person's past needs to be overcome
 - a. By _____

- 1) Forgiveness begins by personally confessing our sinfulness to God and accepting the forgiveness that Jesus Christ purchased for everyone – that is being born again
 - 2) Forgiveness is something we all need daily as we fail and sin
 - 3) Just make sure to work on forgiveness more than on perfection in people!
- b. By _____ past failures (Philp 3:13,14)
 - c. By _____ – believing God will make everything work together for good (Rom 8:28) – even the mess-ups and trials and failures in all our pasts!

D. How You Can Give a Blessing

1. Say It Out Loud
 - a. A blessing isn't a blessing if it is not said out loud! It can be as simple as "Well Done", or perhaps, "I wish you the presence of the Lord in all your trials and the wisdom of God to know what to do with them."
 - b. While travelling with D.L. Moody on a preaching tour, his song leader, Ira Sankey visited a gypsy encampment at Epping Forest in Britain. Sankey put his hand on a little boy's head and said, "The Lord make a preacher of you, my boy!" Years later that boy grew up to become the famous evangelist Gypsy Smith
2. Use a Caring Touch When Possible
 - a. A loving touch can both validate and reinforce the blessing in the person's life.
 - b. Jacob used a touch when blessing his grandchildren – Gen. 48:14-16
 - c. Jesus used a touch when blessing children – Mark 10:16
3. Give your blessing unconditionally
 - a. God commanded all of his people to be blessed - Num. 6:22-27
 - b. Never withhold a blessing as a punishment. Jacob had sons that had done some wicked things, but he blessed them all! – Gen. 49:28
4. Sometimes Give Your Blessing Publicly
 - a. God the Father blessed Jesus publicly – Matt. 3:17
 - b. You should bless your children at key events in their lives like birthdays, school milestones, college, and weddings for example.
5. Bless regularly! – Psa. 34:1
 - a. Remember that blessings defeat curses because blessings come from God! Learn to frequently say, "May the Lord bless you!"

III. Review Questions

- A. What is a blessing? _____

- B. Who are Christians commanded to bless? _____

- C. What is the opposite word for blessing? _____
- D. How can a person help someone overcome their past?
 - a. By _____
 - b. By _____ past failures (Philp 3:13,14)
 - c. By _____ – believing God will make everything work together for good
- E. List the five ways You Can Give Somebody a Blessing
 - 1. _____.
 - 2. _____.
 - 3. _____.
 - 4. _____.
 - 5. _____.

Jacob's Humble Faith

Lesson 11

Hebrews 11:21 (Genesis 32)

Biblical Faith Begins and Ends with Humility

Hebrews 11:21 *“By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff”*

I. Introduction

- A. The Christian life is a life of Humility, either you humble yourself or God will humble you.
- B. The tragedy of Jacob's life is that it took him so long to realise that he needed God.
- C. When we humble ourselves as Christians we are acknowledging that we need him.
- D. When we humble ourselves before God, we are allowing God to step into the situation, whereby we allow Him to work in our lives.



II. Lesson

A. Jacob's Early Years (Genesis 25:24-26)

1. When Jacob is first mentioned in the Bible he was involved in a struggle. But, it was the wrong kind of a fight. He was struggling to get the advantage over _____, his brother.
2. It is interesting to note, that this is what the name Jacob means; it means Supplanter or deceiver (Gen. 27:12). Such was the inner character that dominated Jacob's way of life. He was always concerned about self and wanted to manipulate anyone that got in the way of his success. He even treated his relationship with God in this manner. He, like most Christians gave lip service to God, but never with a heart connection.
 - a. Matt. 15:8 says *“This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.”*
 - b. If, we as Christians do not have Humility before the Lord; whereby we allow the Lord to completely humble us in every aspect of life, then it can become a ritual of praying with nothing accomplished, and we are no better off, than an unsaved person, seeking God for blessings with little results.
3. Jacob didn't have the ideal family to begin with. His Dad favoured Esau, because he was a cunning hunter, but Jacob was favoured by Rebekah because he was a *“plain man, dwelling in tents”* (Gen. 25:26-28). It also seems from the context, that Isaac and Rebekah had drifted away from each other. Their marriage was probably weak and superficial. Each one seems to have favourites, which would have brought about a lot of instability.

4. Esau was also very different than Jacob. His passions were on being a “*cunning hunter, and a man of the fields*” Jacob, on the other hand, had more in common with his mom and would have probably hung around the house more.

B. Jacob's Flawed Character

1. Jacob the opportunist (Gen. 25:29-34)
 - a. Jacob shows his defective character when the right moment presents itself. He knew, physically that he was weaker than his brother, and also, less favoured in the eyes of his Dad, so when the opportunity presented itself, he was determined to get the upper hand.
 - b. When Esau comes back from the field, faint with the hunger, Jacob seizes the opportunity to steal his brother's rightful birthright. He, cleverly, offers Esau some red pottage (Lentil Soup) and some bread, and in return, makes his brother swear away his birthright to him.
2. Jacob the _____ (Gen. 27:1-36) (v.12)
 - a. When Rebekah overhears Isaac's plan to bless his eldest son Esau, she acts quickly, and instructs Jacob in what to do. Jacob has no problem going along with this plan. His only concern was that he would be found out, and his daddy would put a cursing upon him instead of a blessing. (Gen. 27:11,12)
 - b. Jacob was willing to take advantage of his daddy's blindness and blatantly lie to him. He has to pretend that he is Esau and even reassure his dad of this lie, in order to steal the blessing from Esau (Gen. 27:18-23)
3. Jacob on the Run (Gen. 27:43-45)
 - a. Rebekah warns Jacob of the vengeful character of Esau, and instructs him to flee to Haran, where he goes to live with his uncle named Laban. Yet God has a wonderful plan through all this. The Lord brings Jacob in contact with Laban who is a bigger hustler than himself, so Jacob would begin to understand what it feels like to be deceived. (Gen. 29-20-25) Through all this, the Lord is trying to show Jacob the error of his ways.

C. Jacob's Relationship with God

1. His Bethel Experience (Gen. 28:11-22) (v. 19)
 - a. Jacob lays down one night in a certain place because the sun was set. He begins to dream, and in the dream he sees a ladder that is set up on earth and the top of it reaches Heaven and the Angels of God ascended and descended upon it. What a Vision Jacob had! Then the LORD appears above it and extends the Covenantal blessing of Abraham to Jacob. Through all this, Jacob has a healthy fear of the LORD, and a godly reverence, but he is still very much, the old Jacob, even when, it comes to dealing with God; he is prepared to give God his tithe, as long as, the

Lord will provide for him. Jacob gets religious, but he is not prepared to follow the LORD with no conditions attached.

- b. Yet, that is what it means to make JESUS Lord of our lives. Christians are a lot like Jacob in this respect; when everything is going fine they are prepared to follow, but when things get rough, that is the real test of our faith
- c. (Pro 24:10) If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.

2. Working for Uncle Laban

- a. Jacob spends a total of _____ with his Uncle, (Gen. 31:38-41) fourteen of those years he has serve Laban for his two daughters, and the rest of the six years, for Laban's cattle and Laban had changed his wages ten times (Gen. 31:41)
- b. In all this time, the Scripture never says that Jacob prayed or sought the Lord. Even though, the Lord was so good to Him all along the way. It never says, that Jacob ever once humbled himself, yet our gracious Lord, only gave him favour and many untold blessings. The Lord still used dreams to guide and reassure him of the path he was to take.

D. Jacob The Broken

1. Crushing Circumstances (Gen. 32:3-7)

- a. It is so true about sinful, human nature, that we only get REAL with God when we are forced by circumstances to do so.
- b. Jacob realises that His brother, Esau hasn't forgotten about the past, and is now approaching him with four hundred men. Jacob, in that brief moment, realises that his past has indeed caught up with him. At first, he begins to plan a strategy of defence, and then he cries out to God in prayer (Gen 32:9-12). Jacob, however, even though he is humbled at this stage, he is still not broken!

2. Nowhere else to turn to

- a. The Bible says, that Jacob planned different strategies, even tried to appease Esau with a present, (Gen.32:13-21) and divide the company so that the present went over before him. This was all part of the plan to "appease" his brother. He is still, even at this stage, planning and scheming and he certainly doesn't believe the promises that God gave him earlier, to be with him, and to multiply his seed as the dust of the earth. (Gen.28:13-16)

3. Alone with God at Last

- a. Jacob has kept his life busy up to this point. Being in charge of a multitude of people, which results in having a lot of responsibility, yet, at this moment he is all alone, with no one to turn to, but God.
- b. As Jacob begins to wrestle a man until the breaking of the day, he soon realises that this is no ordinary man. As the man prevailed not against Jacob, he touches the hollow of Jacob's thigh, and Jacob still will not let him go, until he would bless him. (Gen. 32:25-27)
- c. It is at this point where Jacob is finally BROKEN. He doesn't ask this man for protection against Esau. He simply asked for this man to bless him. Jacob, at this moment gets REAL with God, and will not let him go until he received the blessing.
- d. What a picture of real prayer. Where Jacob is prepared to wrestle with God until he receives what he knows, that can only satisfy his need.
- e. Have we, as Christians, ever been prepared to struggle in our prayer life, to wrestle in the prayer closet, whereby we have received the blessing from on high?
- f. Jer. 29:13 *And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall _____ for me with all your heart.*
- g. Matt. 6:6 *But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy _____, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in _____; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.*



E. Jacob The New Man

1. From this point on Jacob is different, He has been truly humbled; whereby, the new man is on the throne of his heart. His name is no longer Jacob the deceiver or hustler, the Lord has given him a NEW name, that of Israel (A prince of God). Now, he is still going to act like the old Jacob from time to time, and in truth, he truly doesn't get right with God, until he goes back to Bethel, where he puts away all the strange gods (Gen. 35:1-4).
2. When Real humility before God occurs in a Christian's life there will be changes that will happen, both inwardly as well as, outwardly. There is something about getting close to the presence of God that makes us get real serious about our walk with Him.

III. Conclusion

- A. Jacob, like too many Christians, was always too busy for God. He had sought for the blessings of a prosperous life, and as such, he was always planning and scheming to get the upper hand. His relationship with man was in this manner, and his relationship with God was also in this manner. He had a healthy re-

spect and godly fear before God, but he was not willing to follow the LORD, with no conditions attached.

- B. Most Christians will follow God in the good times, but when it come to the dark days of life, they quickly, go back to their old nature; their old way of survival.
- C. As Christians, we will not truly, wholeheartedly humble ourselves, until we are crushed with circumstances that are far above our control.
- D. The wisest thing we can do as Christians is to spend quality time alone with God, whereby we humble ourselves under His Mighty Hand (1 Pet. 5:6).
- E. The tragedy in Jacobs's life is that he lived so many wasted years, before he finally broke and Humbled himself before God.
- F. We as Christians can make the same mistake. We can busy ourselves with earthly things, and yet have no heart relationship with a God that has only ever loved us.

IV. Review Questions

- A. Jacob teaches us that the Christian life is a life of what? _____
- B. Who did Jacob struggle with at the very first? _____
- C. The name Jacob means, _____

- D. Where did Jacob finally talk with God and experience God's presence?

- E. How long did Jacon work for his uncle Laban? _____
- F. In all that time, what did Jacob NOT do? _____

- G. What finally drove Jacob to seek God in prayer and seek His help?

- H. Who does Jacob wrestle with when he was alone in his tent?

- I. What was Jacob's name changed to? _____
- J. What does that new name mean? _____
- K. What is the wisest thing we can do as Christians? _____

- L. What was the biggest tragedy in Jacobs's life? _____

Joseph's Memorial Faith

Lesson 12

Hebrews 11:22 (Genesis 50:24-26)
Biblical Faith Never Forgets Some Things



Hebrews 11:22 *“By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones.”*

I. Introduction (Heb 11:22)

- A. When Joseph gave instructions concerning his _____, he was making a statement that the destiny of Israel would far exceed the glory of anything that the land of Egypt could ever offer, and that he wanted to be buried not in Egypt, but in the Promised Land!
- B. The truth is, OUR bones will be taken out of here one day as well – by rapture or resurrection – and taken to OUR Promised Land, which is heaven!

II. Lesson – The Memorial Kind of Faith of Joseph

A. Reference verses:

1. Genesis 50:24 *“And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die: and God will _____ visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he sware to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”*
2. Genesis 50:25 *“And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my _____ from hence.”*
3. Genesis 50:26 *“So Joseph died, being an hundred and ten years old: and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.”*
4. Exodus 13:19 *“And Moses took the _____ of Joseph with him: for he had straitly sworn the children of Israel, saying, God will _____ visit you; and ye shall carry up my bones away hence with you.”*
5. Joshua 24:32 *“And the _____ of Joseph, which the children of Israel brought up out of Egypt, buried they in Shechem, in a parcel of ground which Jacob bought of the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for an hundred pieces of silver: and it became the inheritance of the children of Joseph.”*
6. Hebrews 11:22 *“By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his _____.”*

B. Overview of Joseph's Life

1. At the early age of 17 years, Joseph was sold as a slave in Egypt, a heathen land.
2. Joseph's life all the way through until his death is a tremendous testimony to all believers that come after him. His character is exemplary and often

described as being one of the closest pictures of Christ in the Old Testament.

3. Joseph's faith was relentless even up to the time of his death. He was determined to leave a memorial of God's providence and promise to Abraham, that Egypt was not their final destination, but the Promised Land that God promised to Abraham 100 years earlier. This memorial was a demonstration of his faith concerning even his bones. His resting place today is not in Egypt, but in the land God promised his great grand father Abraham.
4. His bones were carried out of Egypt under Moses during the Exodus, across the Red sea, around the wilderness for 40 years and then into the Promised Land under Joshua. His bones finally were buried in Shechem some 414 years from the time of the death of Joseph in Egypt!
5. Whew! How could Joseph be so sure that God would allow his bones to be ultimately buried in the Promised Land?
6. His inheritance for his sons:
 - a. As it was with Jacob (Gen 48:15, 16), so it was with Joshua: "*Behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that* _____ *of all the good things which the Lord your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof*" (Josh 23:14).
 - b. So was it also with Joseph. He could have left to his sons a rich inheritance in Egypt, but Joseph brought his two sons to his father to receive God's blessing (Gen. 48:12). And what was that? To bless them in the inheritance that God promised to Abraham. For Joseph, by faith, believed that the riches of Egypt were nothing in comparison with the blessings of Zion. And so again now, when his hours on earth were numbered, Joseph thinks not of the temporal position of honour which he had occupied so long, but was engaged only with the things of God and the promised inheritance. Joseph had seen the powerful godly example of his father Israel just before Israel died. Joseph had witnessed the last acts of his father, and now he follows in his steps.
7. His faith in his last hours (Heb 11:22)
 - a. Joseph dies at the age of 110 years old.
 - b. Joseph's faith was exercised during his closing hours upon earth. Most of his long life had been spent in Egypt, and during its later stages, had been elevated unto a dizzy height; for as Acts 7:10 tells us, he was made "governor" or lord over Egypt, and over all Pharaoh's house. But neither the honours nor the luxuries which Joseph received while in the land of exile, made that great man forget the promises of God, nor bound his soul to the earth. His mind was engaged in higher things than the perishing riches of this world.

- c. "*And gave commandment concerning his bones.*" The reference here is to what is recorded in Genesis 50:25, "*And Joseph took an oath saying God will surely visit you, and ye will carry up my bones from hence.*" This brings out another characteristic of his faith: the public avowal of it. Joseph's faith was no secret thing, hidden in his own heart, about which others knew nothing. No, though he had occupied for so long an eminent office, he was not ashamed to now let others know that he found his support and confidence in the promises of God. He had been of great dignity and authority among the Egyptians, and his fame for wisdom and prudence was great among the nations. It was therefore necessary for him to openly renounce all alliance with them, lest people think he had become an Egyptian. Had he liked and loved the Egyptians, he had wanted his tomb among them; but his heart was elsewhere.
- d. "*And gave commandment concerning his bones.*" This was not a superstitious request, as though it made any difference whether our bodies be deposited in "consecrated" ground or no. Rather it was this:
- 1) First, to exhibit his belief in the promises of God; though he could not go in person into the land of Canaan, yet he would have his bones carried there, and symbolically (as it were) take possession of it.
 - 2) Second, to confirm the hope of his brethren, and draw their hearts from the goodly portion in Egypt. He would sharpen the desire of the Nation to earnestly aspire after the promised redemption when he was dead.
 - 3) Third, to establish a public memorial, by which on all occasions, his posterity might call to mind the truth of the promise. Proof that this dying request of Joseph's was designed as a public memorial is found in noting a significant change between the wording of Genesis 50:24 and Genesis 50:25. In the former, Joseph "*said unto his brethren*"; in the latter, he "*took an oath of the children of Israel*" (Exodus 13:19) binding those after him to the covenant which God made with Abraham. This is how Joseph established this monument of his being of the favoured seed of Abraham. Joseph's requesting his brethren to "*take an oath*" illustrates the power of example
- e. See also in Genesis 47:31 how he made reference to his "bones" rather than to his "body," because he knew another two centuries must yet run their course.

C. The effect of Joseph's faith after his death

1. Joseph's life and also his death in 1804 B.C is a powerful memorial of God's providence. His bones would remain unburied until Joshua dies in 1390 B.C. also at the age of 110 years old. That is 414 years that Joseph's bones were kept in a box!

2. The Hebrew people for all those years were being reminded by that box that they would one day be leaving Egypt and all its bondage for the Promised Land!

D. Encouragement for the Christian to Finish Well

1. The death of Joseph is an encouragement to Christians today. A Christian ought not to be passive in death, and die like a beast. No, this is the last time he can do anything for God on earth, and therefore he should take a fresh and firm hold of His everlasting covenant, going over in his mind the amazing grace of God toward him. He should review the faithfulness and goodness of God toward him all through his own pilgrimage. He should rest on the promises, and view the glorious future awaiting him. Thereby, praise and thanksgiving will fill his soul and mouth, and God will be greatly honoured before the onlookers.
2. When faith is active during the dying hours of a saint, not only is his own heart spiritually upheld and comforted, but God is honoured and others are encouraged.
3. In contrast, a carnal man cannot speak well of the world when he comes to pass through the dark valley; he dares not commend his worldly life to others. But a godly man can speak well of God, and commend His covenant to others.

III. Review Questions

- A. Fill in Hebrews 11:22 “*By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the _____ of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his _____.*”
- B. At the early age, Joseph was sold as a what in Egypt? _____
- C. At his death, Joseph was determined to leave a what of of God's providence and promise to Abraham? _____
- D. How old was Joseph when he died? _____

Moses' Courageous Faith

Lesson 13
Hebrews 11:23-26

Hebrews 11:24 *“By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter”*

I. Introduction

- A. We are certainly in need today of courageous Christians. Those who are willing like Moses to refuse some things because they are not the will of God for their lives. Moses said NO to being called Pharaoh's son when he was called to a greater purpose with God's people! Moses refused the lifestyle of Egypt for the reproach of Christ because he saw it as greater riches.
- B. This courageous faith sees the reward that is coming instead of the present gratification of the flesh.

II. Background

- A. There came a time when God decided that it was time the children of Israel would leave Egypt. Joseph was now a long time dead and a new king rose up which knew not Joseph (Ex 1:8). This king feared the children of Israel (Ex 1:9,10)
- B. Taskmasters were appointed to afflict and subdue the children of Israel, but this had the opposite effect.(Ex 1:12-14)
- C. Pharaoh planned the first holocaust, the extinction of the Jewish people by killing all male babies at birth (Ex 1:15-16)
- D. Because the Egyptian midwives feared God, they refused to carry out this order (Ex 1:17-21)
- E. But the king of Egypt persisted (Ex1:22)
- F. So into this background of persecution and bondage Moses was born. According to Pharaoh's orders he should have been cast into the Nile, but he was saved alive because the midwives feared the Lord. (Read Ex 2:1-10). Here we see God's hand in not only saving Moses but placing him into the house of Pharaoh where he was brought up by his own daughter and nursed by his own mother. This was a delicate operation requiring wisdom that only God could give.



III. Lesson

A. God Stirs Moses' _____ - (Acts 7:23-27)

1. Moses remains in the palace for 40 years. God then moved his heart to go see his brethren.
 - a. Moses was rich beyond his dreams
 - b. He was an adopted son and as a result had an inheritance in Egypt.
 - c. He possessed great power and influence.

2. From a worldly perspective he had it all. Yet he rejected these worldly attractions to follow God. **Acts 7:23** says when he was 40 years old “*it came into his heart to visit his brethren.*” It was God who moved his heart to compassion i.e. Moses tried to help his brethren!

B. Moses Chose the _____ Method to help – (Ex.2:11-13)

Moses chose the wrong way and as a result he had to flee for his life. For 40 years he wandered in the wilderness where God taught him some lessons from life, hard work and responsibility. This was a far cry from his upbringing.

C. God Was Still _____ - vs. 4 (Ex.3:1-10)

1. After 40 years Pharaoh who sought his life was now dead and the children of Israel cried out to God. And God heard their cry and remembered his covenant with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob. (**Gen 13:14-17 the promised land**)
2. Just when Moses thought he had blown it , that God was finished with him, God sends him an unmistakable sign--he could not miss it (**Read Ex.3: 2-6**)
3. I HAVE HEARD THE CRY OF MY PEOPLE AND SEEN THEIR OPPRESSION----So... I AM SENDING YOU. (**EX 3:7-10**)

D. Moses argues against God’s _____ – (Ex.3: 11)

1. Moses now feels the weight of the call and responds “Who am I?” Despite God’s promise of his presence the weight of the call blinded his reason. Moses could not see himself in this role. As far as he was concerned he had tried this before and had made a mess. Moses now tries to change God’s mind.
2. Read (**Ex 3:13**) and note how God deals with his objections in (**3:11**) and his new question in (**3:13**). When I tell the people “*The God of your fathers had sent me unto you, and they shall say unto me, What is his name? What shall I say unto them?*”
 - a. God tells him His name (this is my name forever).
 - b. Tell them, “*God has sent me to you.*”
 - c. Gather the elders, and inform them of my plan and that God has seen their plight.
 - d. I will bring you up out of bondage, misery and lead you to a land filled with milk and honey
 - e. They will hearken unto your voice
 - f. They will approach the king of Egypt with you and will tell him Let us go-that we may sacrifice unto the Lord our God
 - g. The king will not let you go until I stretch out my hand and smite Egypt. Then he will let you go.
 - h. And ye will not go out empty handed

3. Here is a detailed plan from the mouth of God which outlines Moses' commission to lead his people out of bondage. A step by step plan so that he would know how it would come to pass.
4. Moses refuses to believe that what God has said will come to pass. (Ex 4:1)
5. God then gives Moses power to do signs. (Ex. 4:2-9)
 - a. Turning his worthless rod into the most powerful of snakes (even Moses was terrified of the snake)
 - b. Causing a deadly disease called leprosy!
6. Moses responds by citing his own _____ flaws (Ex 4:10)
 - a. *"I am not eloquent..."*
 - b. I can't speak great words.
 - c. I just stutter!
7. God responds with these words Ex 4:11,12 *"And the Lord said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? Have not I the Lord? Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say."*
8. Slowly but surely God deals with every objection or excuse that Moses puts before God. It was like playing chess against a master player---you don't have any way out. Finally Moses pleads, God send someone else!! Ex. 4:13 And he said, *"O my Lord, send, I pray thee by the hand of him whom thou wilt send. Read God's reply to Moses"* (Ex. 4: 14-17)
 - a. Here we see that God is angry with Moses
 - b. We also see that God gives him a way out so that he can accomplish his will and be strengthened in the process.
 - c. Thankfully, God does not give up on Moses!
9. The result is that finally Moses says YES. (Read Ex 4:18)
10. This was the beginning of Moses' courageous faith. His father in law has released him to follow God's call. His wife and children followed him and God was true to his word.

E. What can we learn from this lesson

1. Like Moses we are told to _____ Mat 29:19,20 Mark 16:15 Acts 1:8
2. Like Moses we have tried in our own power, failed and are currently in hiding (in the wilderness)
3. Like Moses God is still calling us
4. Like Moses we are putting forward our own objections and we say "Who am I" and they won't believe me
5. Like Moses we feel the weight of the call.
6. Like Moses we say *"I am not eloquent, I stutter, my speech is slow, my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth! I will be ridiculed and suffer reproach."*
7. Like Moses our brothers and sisters are in bondage.

8. Like Moses we too say Lord send someone else.
9. Like Moses he gives us a brother to go with us.
10. A courageous faith feels the fear and does it anyway.

IV. Interesting notes

- A. Note the faith of Moses' parents!!! It affected their son!
- B. They had courage to behave in a godly way, even at the risk of their lives.
- C. They could see that Moses was a beautiful child and they were not willing to obey a law that would destroy this gift from God.
- D. Courage is an important part of faith and Moses showed faith *when...*
 1. He refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter!
 2. He rejected the sinful pleasures of the world
 3. He choose instead to suffer afflictions and hardships along with all of God's true people.
 4. He forsook – dumped Egypt. Moses "forsook Egypt" by faith. Faith is revealed in action that proceeds from obedience to God.
 5. He ignored the wrath of the Pharaoh
 6. He endured
 7. He saw Him who is invisible! What a statement!
- E. Biblical faith decides that it is better to be in disgrace for Christ's sake than to have all the treasures of the world. The reward that will be given in the future to those who seek and serve the Lord God while they yet are living in the world far outweighs in value anything the present world has to offer.
- F. Did Moses knew about Christ?
 1. Abraham knew about the city that has foundations. Paul stated that Christ followed Israel through the wilderness (1Cor 10:4)
 2. I think Moses followed the figure, the illustration of the Messiah without knowing the fullness of that example.

V. Review Questions

- A. Whose will did Moses not want to do? _____
- B. What was Moses' refusing when he refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter? _____
- C. Where was Moses when he received the call of God? _____
- D. Can you name a few events in Moses' life that showed he had faith?

VI. Personal Questions

- A. What is God asking you to do that you feel unqualified to do?
- B. What would be the best thing for you to do if you knew God was calling?
- C. Can you think of anyone beside God who might be let down by your refusal to do the will of God?
- D. What action will you take right now to show courageous faith?

Israel's Forsaking Faith

Lesson 14

Hebrews 11:27 (Numbers 25 & Joshua 14)

Faith Causes You to Leave Some Things BEHIND!

Hebrews 11:27 *“By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.”*

I. Introduction

- A. When we live by sight, we fall! Yet, when we fix our eyes steadfastly on the invisible Jesus we receive the courage, and strength to keep acting in faith.
- B. This kind of faith is a belief that no matter what I have now in this world, God wants to give me something infinitely better in heaven. We must trust that God has a better plan for our lives and the life we have now cannot compare to what the Lord has in store for us. We must have a bigger and clearer vision of the Lord and what He can do.

II. Background (Ex.12:1-12)

- A. Moses grows up in a two worlds. He is a child of a Hebrew woman and nursed by his own mother but growing and living in the house of Pharaoh's daughter. It seems Moses remembers his people because he calls them his brethren and even intervenes by killing an Egyptian who was beating one of his brethren. The next day when he sees his brethren fighting with each other he rebukes the one beating the other and is told by the man Ex. 2:14 *“And he said, Who made thee a prince and a judge over us? intendest thou to kill me, as thou killedst the Egyptian? And Moses feared, and said, Surely this thing is known.”*
- B. Moses fears for his life and flees to the land of Midian. It is here Moses while tending the flock of Jethro his father in law that Moses hears from God at Mt. Horeb. He is instructed by the Lord to go and deliver His people. Moses does not believe he is capable of such a great work but ultimately is used by God along with his older brother Aaron. The timeline of events that follow are Mt Horeb the burning bush and the call, The Passover, the Exodus, and the Red Sea crossing.

III. Lesson – Main Verse

- A. **When did Moses Exercise this Faith to _____ Egypt and the Wrath of a King?**
 1. Well, the first time he left Egypt after he killed an Egyptian he was definitely in fear of the king (**Ex. 2:15**).
 2. Now, as God's man to deliver His people Moses leaves Egypt trusting in the power and strength of the Lord. He had no fear of the Pharaoh in charge at that time. Moses went out by the strength of the Lord (**Ex. 13:14**).
 3. What changed was Moses not God. Moses has some experience to look back on as he sees God working to bring about exactly what He had prom-

ised the deliverance of a nation. Moses was able to lead a people out of bondage with no fear of an earthly king because he feared the LORD. This is a great thing for us to learn, and that is to fear God not what man can do!

B. How did Moses *exercise this faith* noted in our main verse?

1. **Heb. 11:27** *By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.*
2. We must first realize this world is not where we are to put down roots. This is where we are now but this is also where we lived that old life of sin.
3. Moses forsook all the riches and pleasures one could possibly have to be used of God. He had to look away from what he was and what he had to what was before him and what he had now. God used a runaway with a shepherd's rod to deliver an entire nation.
4. All God needed was for Moses to believe in Him, trust Him. Moses finally forsakes Egypt to the point that he is able to be a tool in God's hand. Isn't that, or shouldn't that be our heart's desire.
5. Don't you want to be used of God? If that be the case then there must be a cleansing of your life by forsaking the world's riches and sinful pleasures. **2Tim. 2:20, 21** *But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.*
We are to be vessels unto _____ not dishonour.
6. Moses had to get the Egypt out of his life and thinking. God wants to use those who are completely submitted to His word and ways not the way of the world. All this forsaking or leaving behind of the old life and ways is by faith. Instead of our trust being in man and his strength (our own) we must completely depend upon God. Then will see the seemingly impossible things come to pass because with God all things are possible. The other wonderful thing is that now He is using us in His plan, we are a part of His work in this world.
7. Moses also saw God in the most life changing way! Not with the physical eye as at the burning bush but as a God Who is able to do abundantly more than we can think or ask. Moses believed God not only _____ what He said He would but that He _____ what He said He would. That is faith – believing God _____ what He said He would do. That trust in Him Whom we have not seen is faith!
8. **Heb. 11:1** *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*
9. Moses now had to show himself strong in faith to a people who he was leading out of bondage. The nation of Israel wasn't at the burning bush but they had seen the plagues. Their faith wasn't as personal as Moses' faith. They saw great wonders but not that close relationship Moses had with the LORD. (So important to _____ to God, personally!) **Jam 4:8**

10. Our faith as husbands, fathers, wives, mothers, and single adults must be a faith like Moses' had. We must see God not with visible eyes but with the eyes of faith. Simply trust Him!
- We forsake the Egypt in our lives (worldliness)
 - We must endure like Moses did by faith.
 - We must not fear the king (_____ – **Eph.2:2**)
11. God is invisible but shows Himself mighty toward those of an upright heart. **2Chron.16:9** *For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.*
12. Our faith is small because we are not living for the Lord nor do we trust Him for the things we need in our lives. Our desire is for the things of this world instead of directing our heart (affections) and thoughts upward. **Col. 3:1, 2** *If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.*
13. A faith that can forsake the world and the things of this world is a protecting faith. It will keep us from the trouble that comes from dabbling in worldly things.
14. This faith will keep us clean from the filth of the world's sinful pleasures.
15. This faith turns its back on the ways of world and keeps its eyes on the Lord and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

IV. *“By faith he forsook Egypt”*

- To _____ something as Moses did means to – leave behind. Sometimes God asks us to leave the riches of the world for the reproach of being a Christian.
- The only way to go forward is to leave some things behind
- We must leave this world and love for things behind – **1John 2:15**
- Move forward with our eyes on Jesus Christ!

V. *“not fearing the wrath of the king:”*

- One scripture we need to read – **Acts 17:7**
- Which king do you fear; the devil who is prince of this world or _____
- Also we must fear the Lord _____. **Prov.29:25**

VI. *“for he _____” Jesus our Example! – Heb.12:2,3*

- It is our duty to be strong and steadfast in our walk with the Lord.
- We must go through situations and trials and not give up on God!
- God didn't – **Rom.9:22**, Jesus didn't (verse above), Paul didn't – **2Tim.3:11**
- Don't quit when the going gets rough – trust God!

VII. “...as seeing him who is _____”

- A. **1Tim.1:17** - *Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.*
- B. Jesus Christ is our focus – He Who was seen, and handled, and known –
1John 1:1; Col.1:15
- C. **Col.3:2** – commands us to keep our thoughts and focus
“ _____ ” on the Lord!

VIII. Review

- A. We must, as Christians learn as Moses did that God is able to exceedingly great things. That He by His strength delivers us from those things we would trust Him for.
- B. **Ex.13:9** *And it shall be for a sign unto thee upon thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes, that the LORD'S law may be in thy mouth: for with a strong hand hath the LORD brought thee out of Egypt.*
- C. The world really has nothing for the Christian but to divert our attention away from God. It is up to us to forsake the old life and ways and look to Jesus the Author and finisher of our faith.
- D. **Heb. 12:2** *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

IX. Personal Review Questions

- A. Like Moses we have to forsake or leave some things behind. Name some things you need to leave behind?
- B. Who do you fear most when it comes to leaving things behind to follow God's will?
- C. Are you willing to change course to follow the Lord no matter the cost?
- D. How is your personal walk with the Lord?
- E. Are you close enough to Him to see Him through the eyes of faith?
- F. What has to change today, right now, in your life to follow the Lord?

Israel's Passover Faith

Lesson 15

Hebrews 11:28

Faith Delivers the Soul from Death

Hebrews 11:28 *“Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them.”*

I. Introduction

- A. Under the leadership of Moses, the entire nation of Israel kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood of a slain lamb on to the doors of each of their households so that God would pass over them while he executed judgment on the firstborn of both man and beast in Egypt.
- B. Israel trusted in the leadership of Moses and Aaron but it was their obedience towards God's commandments and their faith in God's Word that saved Israel that night.



II. Background

A. Israel's Bondage and Deliverance

1. The first 14 chapters of the book of Exodus describe the captivity of Israel and deliverance from Egypt by Moses. Moses was the man who God had chosen to lead his people Israel out of the bondage and slavery that they were in. Both Moses and his brother Aaron were tasked with leading God's people out from the slavery in Egypt and into the "promised land" (Exodus 3:1-10).
2. After Joseph died there arose a new king over Egypt *“which knew not Joseph”* (Exodus 1:8). This king cruelly persecuted Israel, enslaved them and ordered the death of all male Hebrew babies for fear that Israel would grow mightier than Egypt (Exodus 1:10-16).
3. Israel had cried out to God because of their bondage and God had grace towards them. He heard their cries and their groaning (Exodus 2:24-25).
4. Pharaoh was an enemy of God. Not only did he refuse to free Israel but he put more work upon them and made their lives very difficult (Exodus 5:20-6:8).
5. Exodus chapters 7-11 describe how God intervened and began to deliver Israel. God sent plagues upon Egypt;
 - a. First plague – Water into blood (Exodus 7:20)
 - b. Second plague – A frog invasion (Exodus 8:2-6)
 - c. Third plague – Lice (Exodus 8:16-17)
 - d. Fourth plague – Flies (Exodus 8:24)
 - e. Fifth plague – Cattle disease (Exodus 9:3-6)
 - f. Sixth plague – Boils (Exodus 9:10)
 - g. Seventh plague – Hail mingled with fire (Exodus 9:24)

- h. Eighth plague - Locusts (Exodus 10:13)
- i. Ninth plague – A three day darkness (Exodus 10:22)
- j. Tenth plague – Killing of the firstborn (Exodus 12:29)

B. The LORDS _____ – Ex.12:1-11

1. The tenth plague was the worst by far. This plague was to see God pass through the land of Egypt where He would smite the first-born of both man and beast.
2. God gave Moses and Aaron very specific instructions that they would then have to relay to the entire congregation of Israel. God commanded that every man would have to take a lamb whereby each household had a lamb.
3. God commanded Moses, Aaron and the rest of Israel to kill the lamb and then to take the blood that was shed and sprinkle it onto the doorposts of each of their houses. The blood was to be a token or a visible sign. When God saw this sign, God would then pass over that house.
4. The “Passover” was God’s plan of salvation for Israel. God protected, delivered and saved Israel that night. All Israel had to do in order to be saved was to trust and obey God.

C. The Lesson - _____ Faith (Exodus 12:28)

1. The entire nation of Israel obeyed God and did exactly as God had commanded.
2. At this point in time Israel had a lot of faith and belief in regards to what God could do and how powerful he was as they had just witnessed God carry out the nine plagues on Egypt. It was easy for Israel to “believe” in God but then they proved their faith through their obedience to his Word.
3. It was not just Israel’s faith and belief in God that saved them but it was their obedience to God’s commandments that saved them. Israel followed up their faith with an act of obedience.
4. Because Israel obeyed God and applied the lamb’s blood to the doorposts of their house, they escaped the judgment and the wrath of God.
5. _____
 - a. A Trusting Faith – Israel trusted that God would deliver them.
 - b. An Unquestioning Faith – Israel did not doubt or question God.
 - c. An Obedient Faith – Israel obeyed God’s Word.
 - d. A _____ Faith – Actions speak louder than words (**Jam 2:18**)
 - e. A _____ Faith – Their faith was alive (**James 2:26**)

D. The Passover was having faith in a _____. Ex.12:3-5

1. The lamb was a critical part in God’s plan of salvation for Israel. Without the shed blood of the lamb, God would not have been able to pass over the houses of the people of Israel.
2. The lamb was a substitution for each Israelite. The lamb took the place of every single Israelite that applied the lamb’s shed blood to their homes. The innocent and sinless lamb had to die in the place of the Israelites. Long

before God brought Israel out of Egypt and instituted the Feast of the Passover, we can see from Genesis 4:4 that Abel brought a lamb for an offering to God. Right from day one, the lamb was always used as picture of an acceptable sacrifice for sin and atonement.

3. The Israelites could not use just any lamb. They had to adhere to God's specific requirements concerning the Passover Lamb.
4. Requirements for the Passover Lamb:
 - a. The lamb had to be without spot or _____ (**Exodus 12:5**)
 - 1) Had to be a male of the first year.
 - 2) The lamb was innocent, pure and sinless.
 - 3) An Old Testament picture and foreshadow of Jesus Christ.
 - b. Every household had to have its own _____ (**Exodus 12:3,4**)
 - 1) The lamb had to be a personal sacrifice.
 - 2) Livestock were of great value to people at this time.
 - 3) Young male lambs would have cost a lot of money.
 - c. The lamb had to _____ (**Exodus 12:6**)
 - 1) The lamb's death was not enough.
 - 2) Without the shedding of blood there is no remission for sins (Hebrews 9:22).
5. The _____ had to be applied (**Exodus 12:7**)
 - a. Was not enough to just have the blood stored somewhere.
 - b. The blood needed to be applied to the house.
 - c. Nothing but the blood would do!
 - d. There is a power in the blood
6. The shed blood of the lamb sprinkled on the doorposts of the Israelites' houses was a token or sign from God. Israel had obeyed God and applied the blood to their houses and it was the blood that saved Israel.
7. God passed over when he saw the blood. Israel's heritage and history did not save them. If any one man did not apply the blood to his house, then the first born of both man and beast in that household would have died, as God would not have passed over them. The blood was needed!

E. Israel commanded to remember!

1. The children of Israel were commanded by God to always remember & observe the Passover (Exodus 12:24-27).
2. Jewish people celebrate the feast of the Passover every year. They celebrate the fact that God delivered them from the bondage of Egypt and they rejoice in their liberty. They also teach and instruct their children, who are the next generation about the history of the Passover and tell their children of

how God passed over them on the night when he executed judgment in Egypt.

3. The feast of the Passover is not just a celebration but it is a memorial. It is an ordinance from God to the people of Israel to remember all that God had did for them.
4. God was not instructing Israel to dwell in the past but to always remember their past and their origin and what was done for them. The command to observe and keep the Passover is the responsibility of the entire nation of Israel and not just a few.

III. Review Points

- A. Just like Israel, a Christian's faith is nothing without obedience towards God
- B. Did not matter what was under the blood, all God saw was the innocent blood when he looked it. The blood covered & protected Israel.
- C. Remember, the lamb was a substitution for each Israelite.
- D. The entire nation of Israel obeyed God and did exactly as God had commanded (**Exodus 12:28**).
- E. Just like Israel, Christians are meant to be doers of the Word and not hearers only (**James 1:22**).
- F. So, faith is only real when we act in obedience to what God tells us to do.
- G. All Christians are Christ's "_____"
_____ " (**Ephesians 2:10**).

IV. Personal Questions

- A. Christian, what kind of faith do you have? Just belief or actions too?
- B. Are you fully trusting in God's Word and obeying it?
- C. What has God asked you to do that will take trust in Him completely?

Israel's Dry Faith

Lesson 16

Hebrews 11:29

Faith Will Get You Through

Hebrews 11:29 *“By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians _____ to do were drowned.”*

I. Introduction

- A. Faith operates beyond science! It accesses the power of God to do the impossible!
- B. Strong, confident faith is important in every believer's life



- because we will all have times when the situation confronting us seems impossible. This faith must believe God is there and will provide a way out but most importantly go through the ordeal with us.
- C. Remember Jesus was saddened by the little faith of the disciples when they crossed the Sea of Galilee in the storm. **Matt. 14:22-33** God wants us to trust Him at all times in all trials. We fear the trouble instead of trusting God. Faith rests in the promise that God will never leave nor forsake you.

II. Lesson (Exodus. 14)

- A. The Lord had told Moses to encamp by the Sea. The Lord knew what Pharaoh would think and say.
- B. Vs. 4 God wanted to be honoured and glorified in the upcoming trouble. He wanted to show Himself strong on behalf of His people. While Pharaoh prepares his army, the children of Israel complain to Moses and cry out because of fear and lack of faith.
- C. Moses reassures the people to stand still and see the salvation of the Lord. Moses stretches out his staff and God does the impossible. He divides the Red Sea and delivers His people out of the hand of the Egyptians. Israel saw this great work and feared the Lord!

D. God will be _____ Verses 1-4

1. After 400 years God brings the children of Israel out of Egypt. The Lord by Moses brings His people to a specific place that He had planned. God brings them to an exact place to set up their camp.
2. God in His foreknowledge knows what Pharaoh will do and that is why we must follow God's plan and will. The Lord instructs the children of Israel to encamp in a place where they will be shut in or entangled. Pharaoh does follow after the children of Israel and God will be honoured and the Egyptian shall know that the LORD HE IS God.

E. Pharaoh's _____ is hardened Verses 5-9

1. Now, Pharaoh and his servants are not happy with the decision to let the people go. Israel had served Egypt and its Pharaohs for hundreds of years.
2. Cheap and experienced labour was now just up and gone. Pharaoh prepares his 600 chosen chariots and all the chariots with their captains. He was preparing to bring back these slaves.
3. The children of Israel journey to the specific place God planned with a great multitude and strength.
4. Pharaoh with his hard heart pursues after them. Pharaoh's army and chariots eventually overtake the children of Israel.
5. They camp in the worst place possible. This is not a move any military man would ever make as there is no way to escape, unless God is fighting for you.

**F. Israel _____ to the Lord Verses 10-12**

1. As the advancing army closes in the people cry out in fear to the Lord.
2. The people now complain to Moses that they could have easily just have died in Egypt, they didn't have to come all the way out here into the wilderness.
3. They had forgotten that they were leaving Egypt to be a free people.
4. They must have grown used to their life of bondage because when they are delivered and their back is against the Red Sea they cry to Moses basically now what are we going to do?

G. The Lord provides _____ Verses 13, 14

1. Moses says something amazing in the face of an advancing army "Fear not, stand still." **Psalm 46:10** "*Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.*"
2. God was getting ready to save His people. When God is your God, all fear is gone when you trust in Him. That very day the people were told that the Egyptians that they saw and feared that would be saved from and also they would never see again. Amazing!
3. The Lord was going to fight this battle for you and you will be quiet and watch the power of God.

H. The people go forward on _____ ground. Verses 15-18

1. Moses tells the people to go forward, God said. Forward!
2. To what were they supposed to go forward to, drown?
3. God's people will go right through the midst of the sea and they will walk on dry ground

I. The Lord _____ the waters. Verses 19-22

1. Now we see the angel of God moves from before the camp of Israel to behind them and so also the pillar of cloud. Now Israel sees a sea before them but only darkness and cloud behind them.
2. Moses stretches out his hand and the people now see a divided Red Sea and dry land with walls of water held back by a strong east wind. The children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground. Almost two million people with all their cattle and possessions go through the midst of the sea with greatest army of that time held back in darkness and strength of one angel.

J. The Lord _____ for Israel. Verses 23-25

1. All night the children of Israel are going through the Red Sea and now as the rear of their camp is moving through the sea on dry ground so the Egyptians now see the path through the sea and pursue after them.
2. They must have been in awe of what they saw but never put it all together that the Lord was delivering them again. Did they really think they were going to destroy Israel that day as they rushed headlong into the Red Sea and its walls of water?
3. So, in the morning watch as the last Israelite is coming through the Lord looks at the Egyptian army and begins His work of dismantling their chariots. The Egyptians see the wheels literally fall off their chariots, and the more chariots that break the more of a hindrance to move through this path of dry land.
4. Fear now sets in as the Egyptians finally realize the Lord is fighting against them and for Israel. They just want out of this place and quickly.

K. The people _____ the Lord. Verses 26-31

1. As the last foot of the last Israelite steps up onto that shoreline the LORD instructs Moses to stretch out his hand again, but this time to return the waters back to their original state.
2. Moses did as commanded and the Egyptians tried to flee against the on-rushing water but every single one was destroyed. The LORD said that the people of Israel would not see the Egyptians again and they didn't.
3. Unbelievable, except that God was doing a great work in the midst of His people.
4. He delivered His people from their enemies and He does the same today to those who will put their trust FAITH in Him. Then we see the crowning glory of this chapter...
5. **Exodus 14:31** *And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD, and his servant Moses.*

6. Three wonderful things...
 - a. The people feared the LORD
 - b. The people believed the LORD
 - c. The people believed in God's servant _____

III. What We Learn from the _____ experience of the Red Sea

A. The trials ahead will seem _____ to overcome. Ex. 14:10-12

Israel 'passed through' the Red Sea – the trial, the danger (fearful thing) was all around them. Think about just what God was asking them to do! He wanted them to walk through a sea not a pond or puddle. God asks us to trust Him in some big trials and situations in our lives. Remember God never goes halfway or is unable to sustain us in the trial. God does everything perfect. When they crossed the sea floor it was 'dry land' – not muddy or even damp – dry!!

B. We sometimes feel as the Israelites did, _____ (Ex.14:10) the enemy is too great, as if God has abandoned us.

1. We can feel trapped, alone and fearful of the outcome. There is nowhere to run or hide
2. When all was said and done, God had conquered the enemies and saved the nation of Israel – Ex.14:30. He delights in doing the same for us also
3. Psalm 115:11 *Ye that fear the LORD, trust in the LORD: he is their help and their shield.*
4. The Egyptians attempted to follow God's people to harm them but God protected them. Moses trusted the Lord and as I said there were probably those in that great congregation who trusted God also. Moses trusted God – Ex.14:13 – and encouraged the people to trust God – vs.13. Moses believed the Lord would fight their battle against the Egyptians. We can take comfort in the fact that the Lord will fight our battles also, if we trust Him.

C. We find ourselves _____ (Ex.14:11) against God's ordained authority in our lives

1. A nation looked to its leader – _____.
2. There is a game that children play called "follow the leader" wherever the leader goes, you go, and everything he does you do. This would be a good example for us as we experience the "Dry Ground Faith" Israel experienced. Many times we just have to trust God's leaders to lead!
3. Though Moses was chided by the people because of where he had led them they did ultimately follow. Ex. 14:11, 12 Dry Faith trusts God and those He puts in place as our leaders.
4. Moses had "Dry Ground Faith" Ex.14:13, 14. The people ultimately did show faith in Moses and the Lord as they walked into the Red Sea on "dry

ground.” They believed God would hold back the walls of water surrounding them.

5. When the enemy pursues and the situation looks dreadful and impossible, trust God and the leaders He has put there for each of us. If you are leader as we all are in different areas of our lives... Fathers, husbands, mothers, Sunday school teacher, Crèche worker etc, we all have got to have faith in our God, because others are following. God uses ordinary people to do great things for His glory.
6. Sometimes the Lord does some pretty unusual things, in some spectacular ways to show His great power to those who trust Him. Israel saw the great works the Lord did and believed the Lord and His servant Moses. Ex.14:31
7. **1Cor.11:1** *Be ye followers of _____, even as I also am of Christ.*

D. God knows them that trust Him and will _____ His people. Heb.11:5

1. The Egyptians attempted to go through the Red Sea but God knows who His people are. An entire nation is protected by God.
2. Did every Israelite have great faith? I don't believe so and they were scared. They were trapped and they murmured and complained about the situation they found themselves in (**Ex. 14:10**) they did however cry out to God!
3. Unbelievers go through trials and problems but don't put their trust in God and they will sink because they trust in their own wisdom and strength. God's people must believe in the fact that God will not abandon them in their darkest or most severe trials.
4. God delights in delivering His children! Trust Him! Psalm_107:6 *Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them out of their distresses.*

IV. Review

- A. Dry Faith _____ God even when we see the impossible. **Prov.3:5,6**
- B. Dry faith looks to the Lord for the help they need.
- C. **Psalm115:11** *Ye that fear the LORD, trust in the LORD: he is their help and their shield.*
- D. Dry faith always trusts in God's leaders. **1Cor.11:1** *Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.*

V. Personal Questions

- A. Is just believing in God enough to get you through the trouble?
- B. What is YOUR Red Sea that needs to be crossed?
- C. What kind of faith do you have right now? Do you have The kind that murmurs and complains? Or... The kind that trusts God and crosses on “Dry Ground”?

Joshua's Conquering Faith

Lesson 17

Hebrews 11:30

Faith Breaks Through All Obstacles



Hebrews 11:30 *“By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days”*

I. Introduction:

- A. Real faith always trusts beyond our human limitations
- B. God is well _____ when we as Christians live by such faith (Heb. 11:6)
- C. As we look back at the account of Joshua, we get a clear understanding of what faith can accomplish.
- D. The same God that Joshua served is the same God we are privileged to serve, and also, that God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34)
- E. Great Faith doesn't just develop overnight, it is the CONFIDENCE we get from God's Word as we walk with HIM, day in and day out.
- F. Joshua faith began when he believed in the promises of God's WORD, and VALUED them more than life itself. (Joshua 3:4,5)

II. Lesson

A. Faith that Moulds a Man

1. Joshua was a man of Character! He was _____ Ex.17:10

He had been tried and tested before his leadership and he had been found faithful in all his ways. God is no respecter of persons, and this is true with Joshua, as well as, anybody else.

2. Joshua was always _____ to Moses Ex.24:13

Joshua had been with Moses from the start. We are first introduced to Him in Exodus, where Moses has just received the tablets of Stone, he comes down the mountain and sees the spectacle of the molten calf (Ex.32:19-21). Moses then, In Mount Horeb, pitches the tabernacle outside the camp of Israel, so that everyone that sought the Lord went out to enter it. Then, when Moses enters the tabernacle, the cloudy pillar descends over the tabernacle

door. And it was there that God and Moses spoke face to face. During this whole time, the Bible says, that Joshua the son of nun departed not out of the tabernacle. Joshua was FAITHFUL from the beginning; God saw a young man hungry for the Lord. (Ex. 33:7-11)

3. Joshua had _____ followed the Lord – Num.32:12

When it came time to spy out the land, ten of the spies came back with a negative report, saying that they saw the children of Anak, and that they were grasshoppers in their sight. This caused the people to cry with fear, because of these seemingly huge obstacles. But, thankfully the other two spies, Joshua and Caleb, stilled the people and encouraged the congregation, that the Lord had given them the land. (Num.14:5-8, 32:11, 12)

4. Joshua encouraged personal _____ with the Lord. Joshua 22:5

It is quite evident as we study the life of Joshua that he had a steadfast walk with the Lord. He had seen something real in Moses' walk with God, and it seems he had patterned himself after the example of this. He didn't hang onto the spiritual coat tails of Moses; he had developed his own PERSONAL walk with God. (2 Tim. 2:1,2)

B. Faith that Believes God's Word

1. The word of God is _____ John 17:17

- a. The Word of God is always the basis for Faith. Joshua's faith was simply based upon the PROMISES of Scripture. Joshua believed God because he knew the character and nature of who God is. It takes time to really trust God in the way Joshua did, but that is the end result of a faithful WALK with God. Joshua had seen all that God did in the life and times of Moses and knew that it was the same God that he served. If you believe in a God that can do anything; just like simple childlike faith, where there is no limit to his Power, there is no Miracle that He cannot perform, and there is absolutely NOTHING too hard for Him to do. (Jer.32:17)
- b. Joshua took the promises of God literal and personal and we should do the same. In the Charge that Moses gave Joshua in Chapter 1, he tells Joshua of the importance of, not just the reading of God's Word, but the emphasis is always on the KEEPING of its Commands. Joshua 1:8 can be outlined as follows:
 - 1) Not to Depart out of thy _____ – never stop quoting it!!!
 - 2) _____ therein day and night
 - 3) _____ to do according to ALL that is written – it means obey
- c. Only then can we have good success in our walk with God. It was true in Joshua's life and it is true in the day and age that we live in, but it all starts when we take HEED to His Word.

2. Faith obeys the word and _____ God. (Pro. 16:6)

Joshua had understood the value of simple, childlike obedience. He knew that it was always based upon the keeping of God's Word. The blessings of God were conditional, upon having our ways please Him. This wasn't self righteousness; it was simply taking God at His Word, and trusting that, what God had said, He was also able to perform, all according to His Will, just like it is for the Christian in this day and age. (Rom. 4:21, 22)

3. Faith _____ regardless of circumstances! (Pro. 3:5.6)

Joshua was a leader that truly followed God regardless of circumstances. He had learned by experience that God was bigger than any opposition that he was to face. Even when it came to impossible situations, he knew that God had promised them the land and nothing was to get in the way of that. We as Christian need to view our life in the same manner. It is never the obstacle, or the impossible situation that defeats us, it is always our UN-BELIEF. (Psa.78:40-42)

4. Faith that Goes Forward in taking the city of _____ Josh 6:2

What good is our faith unless we are willing to go forward in obedience to the WORD that God has promised us? Conquering Faith NEVER stays the same. (Rom. 8:35-39) Joshua didn't know exactly how it was all going to work out, he just knew that God had said it, and somehow the mighty city of Jericho was going to be theirs. They didn't even need to fight; the first victory was accomplished by Joshua and his men simply obeying God's Word. (Joshua 6:1-5) The obeyed every detail that the Word of God had specified, even though, it didn't fully make sense to them. (Joshua 6:12-16)

5. Faith that moves God to _____ to our voice! (Jos.10:12-14)

- a. One of the most incredible acts of Faith in the life of Joshua was in the battle between the five Kings of the land of Canaan. Joshua comes up to rescue the Gibeonites from these five Kings and what the Bible says what happens is entirely amazing. The men of Israel were winning the battle, because the Lord had discomfited their enemies, but it was getting late in the evening and the sun was going down. Joshua commanded the Sun and the Moon to STAND THOU STILL upon Gibeon, and the Bible says that God hearkened unto the voice of a man. As Christians, we serve the same God that Joshua served. God did the incredible in Joshua's day and He wants us to realize that He can do the same with us. **(Jer.33:3)**
- b. Faith trusts in God's _____! **Num.13:2** "...*which I* _____..."
- c. In the possession of the land Joshua goes from victory to victory, and a total of 31 Kings in total were defeated under his leadership. **(Jos.12:24)** This includes victory over the children of Anak, who were mighty giants

in the land. When Israel spied the land, they saw themselves as grasshopper before the children of Anak, but Caleb stilled the people and said, "*for we are well able to overcome it*" (Num. 13:27-30) Yet, that is what faith can accomplish, if we only simple OBEY God and TRUST that HE is ABLE to deliver in every circumstance.

6. Faith that is _____ on! Rom.1:17

- a. Faith that accomplishes something for God is always meant to be passed on. The Bible refers to it as a faith once delivered unto the Saints. (Jude: 1:3) A faith that is to be passed on from one generation to another. (Rom. 1:17, Heb.12:1) What good is our conquering faith unless we can pass it on to the next generation? If our faith only effects our generation, **then it dies when we die!**
- 1) Our children need to know that Faith lived out in their parents life is still available for them to follow (Jude verse 24)
 - 2) It is important that we protect our testimony for the sake of those that follow on in our steps.
 - 3) As a church we are to be a shining example to this world so they would might have a chance to come to salvation (Phil 2:15)
 - 4) If our faith is real and consistent, it should affect, at least out children's children; that they would know that their grandparents had WALKED with God. (Pro.13:22)

III. Conclusions

- A. Faith always reaches beyond our human frailties.
- B. Joshua success was in following the BLUEPRINT of God's Word. God's Word had said it and that settled it in the heart of Joshua.
- C. If we are to have success as Christians, we need to follow the example that is set out before us.
- D. Joshua's conquering faith, just didn't affect him, but impacted a whole Nation, as the obeyed the commands of Joshua.
- E. Real faith always leaves something behind, so that the next generation can build upon the previous one (Psa. 71:18)

IV. Review Questions

- A. Does our faith, or lack of it, always impacts on those around us?
- B. What should be the basis for our faith according to this lesson?
- C. Who should our faith affect, just like Joshua's did?

V. Personal questions

- A. Do you feel as though you have a conquering faith like Joshua?
- B. What can you do to increase your faith?
- C. What should be result of our faith in our families?

Rahab's Exceptional Faith

Lesson 18
Hebrews 11:31

Hebrews 11:31 *“By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.”*

I. Introduction (Rom 1:17; Heb 11:31; Mt 21:29-32)

- A. We have seen and learned a lot about Biblical "faith" in this Triumph of Faith Series. But I want to talk about a kind of faith that is **Exceptional** - not your normal, run-of-the-mill kind of faith. I mean the kind that sees the impossible accomplished in a life!
- B. As a Christian, I don't want to just live - to "get by" - I would like to have *the abundant life* that Christ promised. It is tied to your grasp of the concept of faith
1. Faith is not a "force" - where you manipulate God
 2. Faith is not a "farce," or a hype where it is all psychological
 3. Faith is not a feeling – where you feel like praying, or feel like doing this or that, or that you don't feel like it
 4. **Faith is obeying what God told you to do, because you trust God**
 5. That kind of faith produces the abundant life - it just flows like a river!
- C. God has given us a record of the lives of common people who got the right concept, and with each one we learn a bit more about true faith - about Biblical faith - we get a different "angle" on it like a diamond as they triumphed over the obstacles that life throws at you!
- D. As you well know, these triumphs were never easy - the they are never impossible either, when your faith is resting in God's perfect word!
- E. Notice in Hebrews 11:31, that Rahab is called what?
_____ Aren't they *sinner*s? Well, let's take a look at Mt 21:29-32, and notice that _____ and sinners can get into heaven, while religious leaders are barred! Let's learn how Rahab broke the mould she found herself in, and then go on to become someone very important in the line of David through to Jesus Christ!



II. Lesson- Rahab's Exceptional Faith

- A. **Exceptional Faith** _____ (Josh 2:1-11) – It Surrenders to God. Rahab, and all of Jericho are afraid!
1. Why fear God?
 - a. Because it is a smart thing to do (Job 28:28; Ps 111:10; Pr 1:7; 10:27; 22:4)

- b. Because He and our sin just don't get along (Rom 1:18). God hates sin!
- c. Because it is the only thing that enables us to deal with God - from a position of SURRENDER - there is nothing else you can do than that!

2. How to fear God

- a. *Open your ears* - listen to what this Book has to say - get the big picture of a BIG God - not like the gods normal people worship
 - 1) He opened up the Red Sea, and made it as dry land
 - 2) He defeated the meanest and worst kings alive - Sihon and Og!
These were the Hitlers and Stalins of the day!
- b. *Open your eyes* - don't live in fairyland - look around you! What kind of a world do you live in? There is enough trouble in this world to let you know God is not pleased with us (wars, disease, funerals, troubles)
- c. *Open your mind* - use common sense. Quit deceiving yourself
 - 1) Believing in multiple gods - all religions are the same! Right!
 - 2) Believing the Bible is myth and fairytale - not if you check it out!
 - 3) Believing God doesn't care how you live - right outside their city, just 5 miles away stood an army numbering 600,000 warriors, and another million and a half women and children ready to destroy!
- d. *Open your mouth* - start acknowledging that HE IS GOD (2:11)
- e. *Open your heart* - make Him YOUR God - not just the God of the Jews - the one who fears God, does it from the heart!!! AMEN!
- f. You had better fear God! It is the only SANE thing to do!

B. _____ faith accomplishes _____ things. (Josh 2:12-16)

1. Faith is more than just WORDS (Jam 2:17-19, 25, 26) - prove your faith!
2. True faith is a total trust and confidence that enables you to do some things you couldn't do otherwise:
 - a. Like *surrender to your enemy* - these Jews and their God - she knew Jehovah wasn't her God - yet!
 - b. Like *care about your soul's condition* - this HARLOT never cared about spiritual things a day in her life until she faced certain death - but the same God that brought fear to her heart, offered her HOPE!
 - c. Like *care about others* - she had never cared to listen to her Mom and Dad before, and yet here she is trying to get them SAVED!
 - 1) Her family!
 - 2) Extended family - as many as would be interested!
 - d. Like turn your home into a church-house (used to be a whore-house)

3. True faith doesn't worry about the details - she lives on the WALL (it is that very same wall that will be crumbling down in a few days - but no matter, she is right where she is supposed to be - she trusts GOD, not the walls!

C. Exceptional Faith _____ God (Josh 2:17-21)

1. *Fly your colour (Rom 10:11)* - let it be known that you are a Christian who is trusting **the blood** (Acts 11:26) - let your light so shine!
2. *Go get your family* - they will not come to you (Luke 14:23)
3. *Pass on the seriousness of God's word, and His commands* - EVERYONE had better STAY inside - if you are not going to STAY, then you weren't serious to begin with - sign of real Christianity
4. *Obey right away (2:21)* - she put out the thread right then and there - didn't put it off, or have someone else do it - took the responsibility!
5. Faith that does not obey God, is a LIE!

D. Exceptional faith _____ on the fulfilment of God's promise! (Josh 6:20-24) - Perseverance

1. The two spies head back to camp and report that everything is ready
2. Sequence of events build everything up
 - a. The Jordan River dries up - nothing is stopping Joshua and Israel
 - b. Over 2 million Jewish people face off with the people of Jericho
 - c. Seven days pass, with the 2 million people quietly marching around the city each day
 - d. On the seventh day, the same thing happens that had happened for the past six day, only this time, at the end of the circuit, ram's horns begin to blare, and then to top it all off, all 2 million voices sound a shout that rattles the heart of everyone inside the walls of Jericho
3. Through it all, Rahab, her family, and her family's families, have huddled in that home of hers, and have watched everything, and prayed like they never prayed before - and no one gave up, and ran to a "safer" place!
4. So that when the walls fell down flat:
 - a. There was one small section, still standing
 - b. Having a small, scarlet coloured thread hanging out of its window
 - c. And about 50 or 60 wide-eyed souls shaking to bone, huddled inside
 - d. But all saved by GRACE - not of works (Ps 91:7)
5. They had all enough faith to BELIEVE, but their faith enabled them to PERSEVERE - they stayed true to God's word and promises!

E. Exceptional Faith Transforms Joshua 6:25

1. Transforms the soul - from _____, to conqueror - **Rom.8:1**
 - a. She was different on the inside!
 - b. Used to be a harlot, but no longer. She is SAVED!

- c. Used to be condemned to _____ with everyone else (Rom 3:10,23)
- 2. Transforms the life - from sinner to saint (Mt 1:5)
 - a. She was different on the outside too!
 - b. She had a home now - marries a man named Salmon
 - c. She has children now - before tried to keep from having children - now she has a young man named Boaz who will end up marrying RUTH, and is part of the genealogy of the TRUE JOSHUA - Jesus Christ!
 - d. She has a testimony to us all - that she believed God
 - 1) Risked everything to protect those 2 spies
 - 2) Rallied her whole family to believe God as well
- 3. Transforms the world - one sinner at a time!

III. Conclusion

- A. Rahab is a woman who was clearly Condemned! And yet she got saved!
 - 1. Not because she was "elect" or predestined! But because she responded to the wrath of God with faith in that same God!
 - 2. He or she who hears about the power of God in righteous judgment, and reasons that such a God is right, can and should also reason that he is the only Power that can provide deliverance and security from that wrath!
- B. **Exceptional Faith DOES the following things:**
 - 1. **Fears God** - Surrenders - Do you fear God?
 - 2. **Clings to God** - Depends Upon God - Trusts! Do you trust?
 - 3. **Obeys God** Are you obedient to this Book?
 - a. *God says Repent, and trust His Son*
 - b. *God says, Get your family*
 - c. *God says Get serious about God's word, and His commands*
 - d. *God says, Obey right away*
 - 4. **Holds On Through Anything** - Perseverance. If you are truly trusting Christ, then HOLD ON - you can make it
 - 5. **Transforms** - are you ANY different?
 - a. Transforms the soul - from condemned, to conqueror
 - b. Transforms the life - from sinner to saint (Mt 1:5)
 - c. Transforms the world - that's why Christ came - we needed Him!

IV. Review Questions

- A. What did Rahab's exceptional faith do for her?
- B. What do you need exceptional faith for in your life?
- C. Take a moment and think of what God could do not only in your life but the lives of others through your exceptional faith. Write them down!

Gideon's Little Faith

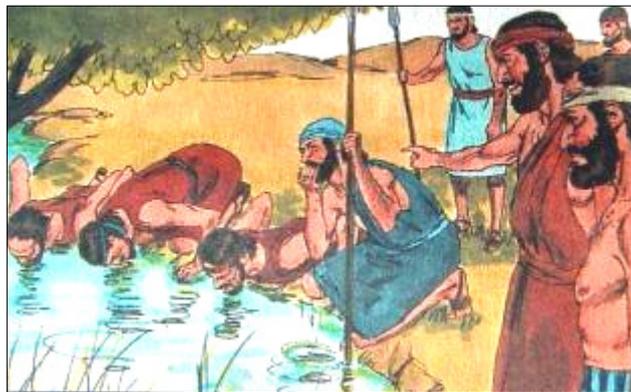
Lesson 19

Hebrews 11:32

Hebrews 11:32 *“And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of _____, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets”*

I. Introduction

- A. In this lesson we will learn about a man named Gideon.
- B. He was a man of “little faith.”
- C. Gideon was an ordinary guy chosen by God to do an extraordinary job. God was ready to deliver them from the crushing hand of the Midianites, and Gideon was the chosen leader.



- The only problem was Gideon's insecurity and fear. He was full of doubt and fear (much like we are).
- D. But sometimes a little faith can accomplish much when that faith is placed in a great God. Our fears and insecurities can be overcome with a little faith in Jesus Christ! Missionary to India, William Carey said, “Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God”.
- E. Summary of what Gideon will teach us:
 1. Gideon obeyed the angel of the Lord, although he did not have much faith in his own abilities.
 2. Because of his obedience, a victory was won.
 3. Gideon's faith was simple obedience to the Lord and reliance on Him.

II. Background (Judges 2:11,12; 6:1-6)

- A. Israel has settled in their Promised Land - but the people had no time for God. They got too busy with their work, and so sin crept in.
- B. Where God should have been in charge, sin was now reigning over their lives (2:11,12; 6:1)
 1. Instead of serving and living for God, they end up serving the devil
 2. Israel as a nation no longer was worshipping the God who saved them, but were going from country to country finding new idols and _____ to worship
- C. But those false gods are only time-bombs - you reap what you sow (6:2-6) - the entire nation ends up ruined and in bondage - a pattern repeated to this day!
- D. Israel finally wakes up, and cries _____ (6:6) - surrenders to God

- E. That's when God shows up, and chooses a man of Little Faith to turn the whole situation around - from defeat to triumph!
- F. God commanded Gideon to go in his _____ and save Israel. (**Judges 6:14** "*And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?*") He had the command of God and the authority of God; what more did he need?

III. Lesson - What *Little Faith* Can Accomplish! (Judges 6-8)

- A. **Start with Your Home** (6:25-27) - Battle it out at home before you do battle "out there!" The reason why Christians are defeated is because we have allowed every form of sin into our homes! God help us to take back control of our homes in the following ways! Your enemy is not *drink*, or drugs, or your past - your enemy is your own heart, and the sins you allow in your home!
1. *Dethrone the idols of the heart first* - anything more important than Jesus is an idol! How do you tell if you have idols in your heart:
 - a. If it has more importance than time in prayer, or this Bible, or church
 - b. If something (like prestige) is more important than souls!
 - c. If something is looked forward to more than a "Well Done" from Jesus
 - d. Examples:
 - 1) Sporting events – so you miss church, or don't care about prayer or learning the Bible
 - 2) Music stars
 - 3) Your job - everything must take second place now to your job
 - 4) Someone you idolize because they get all the attention you want
 - 5) Cars, and power - think Christians are not your type!
 2. *Dethrone the idols of the home next* - it is no good cleaning up house, if the heart is not in it! Gentlemen, we as heads of our homes need to dethrone:
 - a. The TV, radio always playing in the background (Titus 1:10)
 - b. TV programmes you KNOW are filthy, and yet can't live without them!
 - c. Pictures, and statues of Jesus and the Saints! ***Get rid of them!***
 3. How do you "dethrone" these idols?
 - a. Confess them as SIN - if they have priority over Christ they are!
 - b. Repent of their control they had over you - reject it's attraction
 - c. Make a rule - the music, TV stays off, unless it is godly
 - d. Make it public, make it clear - and be first to live and die by it!
 4. You don't have to have GREAT faith to do it, just a little is just enough! What you need is CONVICTION - is it right to do or not?! Is your home worth fighting for, or NOT?! Does Jesus Christ mean anything to you?!!!

5. God says make your home a place of **worship, prayer, and a garden** to walk with God in - transform your thought life, and your routines so that God has first place - be conquered by His Son (salvation)!
6. Take the lead - don't wait on Mum and Dad, or ANYBODY (nobody in Gideon's day would have done anything - it was up to him!)
7. Now you are ready for the **BIG Battle** - now your little faith can be focused on a **BIG God**, and watch every enemy collapse before your eyes! The key is: *you have to start at home!* If you are not willing to battle the enemy on your own turf, then you can never fight him on his turf!

B. Win Your _____ (6:28-32; Josh 24:15; Act 16:30,31; 1Pe 3:1,2)

1. Most of us have impossible situations at home - people who are like Joash - worshipping idols, and ignoring the God of heaven!
2. Gideon's stand made some folks *mad* - always will - these folks had depended upon Gideon's home for spiritual worship. Once the idol was gone, their religion was gone - like many of these house shrines today
3. But, at the same time, it was the _____ that forced Joash, Gideon's father to choose to stand with his son because he realized Gideon was right
 - a. If Baal is so great, let "him" complain - discovers he was a dumb idol!
 - b. If idols are so powerful, why are WE the ones who have to carry them?
 - c. Joash realized Jehovah was God Almighty, and stood alongside his son - at great risk - *always been a risk to believe the truth!*
4. Many a Dad, and Mum got saved because they saw the transformation of the life of their son or daughter - they saw not **GREAT** faith but just enough
5. Many a son/daughter, sister/brother got saved because they saw you stand!
6. Our families back home need us to come home fully surrendered to Jesus Christ, to His word, and to living for HIM! They need to see us live *flat-out* for God - that will always speak louder than any sermon!

C. Beg God for the _____ of His Holy Spirit (6:33-35; Eph 5:18)

1. Gideon cannot lead these people against the Midianites in his own strength, so God supplies the need through the Holy Spirit (Zech 4:6)
 - a. A true Christian knows just how deeply we need Christ's power!
 - b. Gideon here *yields to the need for the Holy Spirit* to both **fill**, and **equip** him to win!
 - c. People "drink" to get their confidence up, and to steady their nerves
 - d. Christians surrender to the power of the Holy Spirit for confidence and steady nerves of steel! It means, asking God what to do, and asking Him to help you do right! You can't do anything spiritual without Him!

D. Make Sure God is With You at Every Step of Your Decision Making (6:36-40) Don't be so quick to zoom ahead of God!

1. Most people fault Gideon for testing God - being a sceptic. But that is not wrong.
 2. Gideon is nervous - remember, he is not a man of GREAT faith, and so he needs direction every step of the way - *you and me are the same!!!*
 - a. *That's why this Book is so important* - need clear direction every step of the way - something you come back to time and time again!
 - b. *That's why this church is so important* - you need weekly preaching, and direction, that lays out the steps you need to take each week to serve God in victory, not in crumbled defeat! EVERYONE in this room that can physically be here, ought to be here EVERY SUNDAY, both morning and evening! PERIOD!
 - c. God help us to have enough faith to know we need to be cautious in our lives, and seek God's direction on a daily basis!
 3. Gideon puts out his _____ (wool skin) - puts off the battle two more days - God patiently waits for Gideon's faith to build - Gideon KNEW God's word, but struggled to believe it (just like a lot of us)!
 - a. First time asking for his fleece to be wet, and ground dry - Done!
 - b. Next day asking for the ground wet and fleece dry - Done again!
 - c. God shows Gideon that what God said should be done - ATTACK!
 4. Gideon has no more excuses, or questions - the course is settled
- E. Allow God to Strip You Down (7:2-8)** - this is where we fight God instead of our enemy - when He starts taking away (pruning) things in our life that hinder HIS hand in our lives
1. Gideon's "emptying" (not stocking up) will lead to his victory (either you will lose to God, or you will lose to everything else - one or the other)!
 - a. God begins to strip Gideon and his army down because of the danger of pride, self-sufficiency, great talent and ability will hinder God
 - b. Started off with 32,000, against 120,000 Midianites (4 to 1 odds)!
 - c. Allows those who were afraid to go home - 22,000 flee at the chance (no faith in them - they just lived by sight anyway)
 - d. Left with 10,000 (12 to 1) - still too many for God to get all the honour
 - e. The remaining 10,000 are put to a simple test by God (7:4-7)
 - 1) At a river, watch for those who _____, and those that drink with their face in the water
 - 2) There is no "easy" way to drink from a river without cups and canteens - not a well prepared army
 - 3) As Gideon passed through the camp, he tapped those who lapped up the water, which totaled only 300! God is going to use some strange warriors who won't be taking any credit than obedience!
 - 4) Odds now are 400 to 1!!!

- f. With those _____ men (and God), Gideon sets off to face the Midianites in the middle of the night (7:8). With no swords, or shields, or even a battle plan, he heads into battle with only food, trumpets, and torches

F. Our Enemy is More _____ than We Are (7:9-15). God knows Gideon needs some encouragement, so He opens his eyes and ears to the hearts of the enemy where he learns they are empty, and fearful, and unsure. Oh if only we could see the hearts of our so called "enemies"!

G. Conquer Using the Simplest of _____ and Tactics (7:16-23)

1. Pray FIRST - worship, dependence, and confidence in the Lord
2. Obey next - following the instructions
3. Gideon used only THREE weapons
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. A water pitcher - an open clay bucket



4. Divide up the army into THREE divisions - each to take up position around the enemy (act like there is MORE of you than there really is (Rom 8:31)
5. Keep your eyes on the Leader - do as he does (7:17,18; Philp 4:9)
6. Function as a single unit - one body - unity (7:19,20)
7. Stand your ground - in the midst of pandemonium (7:21)
8. Watch the Lord do your fighting for you (7:22)

IV. Review Questions

- A. Did Gideon trust in himself or God when asked to deliver Israel?
- B. Why did Gideon want a sign?
- C. What wonderful virtue of God was shown to Gideon when he kept asking for signs?

V. Personal Questions

- A. Do you ever find yourself like Gideon; needing a sign?
- B. Do you think God is going to give you one?
- C. What does God want you to trust in?
- D. Do you really believe God can use you even in your fears and insecurities?
- E. Could you this day resign yourself to trust Him completely?

Barak's Follower Faith

Lesson 20

Hebrews 11:32 (Judges 4 & 5)

Hebrews 11:32 *“And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of _____, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:”*

I. Introduction

- A. Here is a man that was called to single-handedly lead Israel's army into battle
- B. But... this great general needed someone to go with him – to lead him. His faith had to be bolstered by the leadership and strength of another person.
- C. This is called, “Follower Faith!”
- D. This is the kind of faith that most Christians have, but must be developed and increased if we are going to be better used of God for greater service.
- E. Because, just as Barak learns, we all need to trust God even though new may be very afraid.

II. Lesson (Hebrews 11:32; Judges 4 & 5)

A. Overview:

1. The events of Judges range from about 1382 years before the birth of Christ to 1045 B.C.
2. Under Joshua an obedient people conquered the land through trust in the power of God. Following the death of Joshua Israel plunges into a 350 year Dark Age *“there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel”*. This led to a period of cycles of defeat by their enemies followed by deliverance by God appointed Judges to free them from their oppressors.
3. The people became disobedient and became like the pagan Canaanites that yet remained in the land and they worshiped their idols and false gods. This led God to judge the people which resulted in several cycles of apostasy, oppression and deliverance.
4. **Joshua 20:25** tells us that, *“every man did that which was right in their own eyes”* in blatant disobedience to God's commandment provoking the Lord to be angry with them. (**Judges 2:20-23**).

B. God's _____ (Psa. 36:5)

1. The primary reason for the people's failure is due to a lack of faith.
2. There were consequences in their lack of _____ **Judges 2:1-3**
3. Over and over God used foreign oppressing armies to bring them to repentance and obedience and finally led them to their restoration as a nation.
4. It is because of God's mercy that the length of their restoration was greater than that of their oppression.

5. God uses a prophetess, a married woman named Deborah and a general named Barak to deliver the people from oppression.

C. Faith in _____ (Read Judges 4)

1. When a people have been oppressed for such a long time, men lose hope and just try and make the best of the bad situation. Attention is on survival, to simply make an existence.
2. In this period of Israel's dark history with the faith of men failing badly, God used a _____ to stir up the men to fight and free the people from their current bondage.
3. This woman Deborah had kept a strong faith in the Lord and the Lord could work through her to affect the men and in this case, Barak.
4. It is often said that a man's success is attributable to a good women supporting him. Women do have an important role to play especially as a man's helper as we see so vividly displayed in this example of faith.
5. Deborah a prophetess and a judge (one who delivered the oppressed from the oppressor) at the time she called for Barak and told him of the LORD's command to take 10,000 soldiers to Mt. Tabor, that the LORD would draw Sisera's host to the Kishon River and give Barak the victory.
6. Barak was willing, but only if Deborah herself had faith enough to go with them. Deborah went, but said Sisera would not fall to Barak or his soldiers, but to a woman. The chief honour goes to him who conquers the chief; therefore Barak would win the battle but not the full honour accorded the victor. Nevertheless Barak did go—an act of faith against all worldly odds.
7. From Mt. Tabor Deborah could clearly see the storm clouds forming to the southwest, even fifty miles away beyond Mount Carmel. She knew when to tell Barak to go down into the Kishon River valley. The clouds were hidden from Sisera's view by the mountains all along the road as far as Taanach.
8. Then as Sisera's 900 armoured chariots and army were bearing downhill toward the river on the seemingly hapless Israelites the storm came up over the mountain range and caught up with them.
9. Suddenly the might of the chariots was defeated the same way the chariots had been defeated at the Red Sea—with mud! The archers could not see to shoot straight. The foot soldiers were unsupported, but their armour was too heavy to run fast. The chariots were stuck in the mud. Harosheth was further away than the ten miles that a horse could run without resting. They had a problem.
10. Even Sisera's chariot was stuck in the mud; so he got out of it and ran several miles to his "ally," Heber the Kenite (a descendant of Moses' brother-in-law). Appealing to Heber's wife Jael to hide him, he was fed and went to sleep in her tent. Then she slew him and later showed Barak the body. Barak's active faith was well rewarded with victory, though not with the victor's glory.
11. If we are tempted to think of Barak as a coward, it would be well to think of ourselves being called to lead several poorly armed people against nine

hundred trucks accelerating towards us down a 3% grade. Yet, when Deborah put herself in the same jeopardy with the soldiers, Barak did just that. Deborah and Barak are both heroes of faith.

D. Conclusion

1. **Hebrews 11** is as much about works, things people _____ as about faith; by faith all these people did something. James teaches that this is the only way our faith can be _____. And there is nothing wrong with faithful deeds that are motivated by others.
2. Our deeds of faith are no less acceptable to God when they are prompted by fellow-believers; in fact, such is positively encouraged: "*let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works*" (**Heb.10:24**). No matter, then, that Barak relied so heavily on Deborah's influence; despite his feelings of inadequacy, through faith he did what was asked of him.
3. Obedience is the key to our prosperity also. **Judges 5:31** "*And the land had rest forty years*" We need to always be a peculiar people always separated unto the holiness of God
4. **Hebrews 10:38** *Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.*

III. Review Questions

- A. **Question:** In view of this statement of Deborah to Barak, why is Barak listed among the heroes of faith in **Heb. 11:32**, and not Deborah?
- B. **Answer:** Deborah did not claim the honor. She manifested the greatest faith, but the honor of slaying the enemy captain was to go to another woman, Jael, and not to Deborah. Deborah's faith was in the _____ alone, while Barak's faith was partly in the LORD and partly in _____ faith
- C. How did Barak, at the word of the prophetess Deborah, win over Jabin's army?

Personal Questions

1. Where is your faith today? In God or other men / women?
2. When you look at Barak's life do you see yourself at times needing others to help your faith?
3. Do you really believe the Bible as the very word of God?
4. Is His word enough for you to go forward in faith?
5. When no one else trusts, will you trust Him because His word says to?

Samson's Dying Faith

Lesson 21

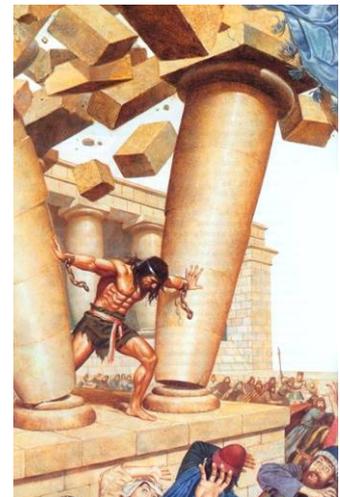
Hebrews 11:32 (Judges 13-16)

Faith is Accepted even at the Last!

Hebrews 11:32 *“And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:”*

I. Introduction

- A. All of us fail the Lord many times in our lives.
- B. But we should always remember to finish well.
- C. Samson wasted almost all of his life by doing his own thing his own way. God wants to use us right now but we usually are too busy doing our own thing.
- D. Thankfully it is never too late to trust the Lord and allow Him to use you daily for His glory.



II. Lesson Judges 13

A. Samson had _____ (Judges 13:5)

1. Samson was a young man that had everything going for him
 - a. He came from a godly family
 - b. He was a miracle child
 - c. His birth was announced - (**Judges 13:2-7**)
 - d. He felt the blessings of the Lord upon him, even as a child (**Judges 13:24, 25**)
 - e. Every time he needed God's empowerment he had it. He didn't even have to pray for it.
 - f. He had supernatural strength from God that always gave him the victory
 - 1) Whether it was the slaying of a Lion (**Judges 14:6**)
 - 2) Or thirty Philistines (**Judges 14:19**)
 - 3) Tying 300 foxes tail to tail with firebrands in between (**Judges 15:4**)
 - 4) Or 3000 men of Judah come to ask one man to be bound (**Judges 15:9, 12**)
 - 5) Then what follows, when Samson finds that New Jawbone of a ass, he goes and slays a 1000 philistines (**Judges 15:15,16**)
 - 6) He also takes the door of the gates of the city of Gaza and drops it of 30 miles in Israel's territory. (**Judges 16:3**)
2. God wanted to use this young man in a mighty way
 - a. To begin to DELIVER Israel from the mighty enemies of the Philistines (**Judges 15:5**)
 - b. To bring Israel back to God by providing Samson as judge and deliverer

- c. To be a leader that Israel could follow
- d. So that, in the generations to come, they could remember just what God could do with just one man.

B. Samson's real enemy was his _____ (Gal 5:17)

1. Samson may have battled the Philistines for over 20 years, but his greatest enemy was Himself
 - a. When you look at the mirror you are looking at your greatest enemy
 - b. Your flesh wants nothing to do with God (Gal 5:17)
 - c. Samson naturally followed his own heart (Pro. 28:26, 14:14)
 - d. Except for the end of his life, Samson never had a spiritual bone in his body, but sought to please himself at all times
 - e. Never concerned about his Parents (Ch.14:1,2)
 - f. Never concerned about the Nazarite Vow, he broke it at the first opportunity for fleshly pleasure (Judg. 14:8,9)
 - g. Never once concerned about his Personal testimony
 - h. Your testimony is the most VALUABLE thing you possess in this world! Guard it with your life. If you ever allow your testimony to become tarnished, you will never be able to restore it. God will forgive your Sin, but God cannot RESTORE your Testimony.
2. His only concern was for himself, because that is the end result of following your heart
 - a. At the end of his life, his sin catches up with him (Gal 6:7, Pro.14:14)
 - b. He is mocked and ridiculed by his enemies
 - c. Even then, he seeks revenge for the wrong reason (Judges 16:28)

C. The lessons we can learn from Samson so far:

1. Greatness is not determined by my MIGHT.
2. Your enemy looks back at you every time you look in the _____
(James 1:23, 24)
3. Sin will take you further than you want to go (Pro. 5:6)
4. Sin will keep you longer than you want to stay (Pro. 21:16)
5. Sin will cost you more than you want to pay. In the case of Samson. it cost him his life
6. Sin will take you deeper than you ever want to go (Pro. 23:26,27)
7. Sin MESSES up your Understanding of:
 - a. How greatly God _____ you (Zeph.3:17)
 - b. How _____ is God's Character (Pro.9:10)

D. Samson's greatest sin was that he did not _____ after God! (Psa. 10:4)

1. Samson's greatest Sin was that he didn't need God (Psa. 10:4) The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.
2. The more you have going for you the less you think you need God
3. The Reason God sends someone to Hell is not because of their Sinfulness; it is the fact they reject JESUS Christ, the only way of salvation. (John 3:18)
4. You see you CANNOT live life without God; He didn't create us that way.
 - a. Remember Lot (Gen. 13:12)
 - b. Jacob's Success as a business man, yet his failure as man trying to do it in his own strength.
 - c. What about Solomon in all his wisdom and riches, but yet he never followed his own advice
5. In this world also, there are many examples of success, but come the end, they are utter failures. (Matt. 10:39; Pro 14:12, 13:7)
6. What good is all the success in the world, if in the end, you will die and spill Hell wide open
7. The Fact is that you have been born of Adams nature and there has to be a NEW Birth for you to be pleasing to God

E. Samson's Final _____! **Prov.16:18**

1. He was a man that liked to live dangerously!
 - a. But, sooner or later, his sin was going to catch up with Him. The Philistines proved to be a persistent enemy and at the end it produced great reward for them.
 - b. Christians' seem to forget that we have a Real enemy that walks around like a roaring lion. Yet, if we live in the old nature, we also like to live dangerously and the consequences are _____
2. Samson _____ what he _____. **Gal.6:7**

There is always a price tag that comes with sin. In the case of Samson he lost everything, except for his life. The Philistines spared his life so that they could mock and ridicule their once formidable enemy. They plucked out his eyes and they tried to humiliate him any way they saw fit. (Judg 16:21-25)

F. Samson's Faith at Last

1. God _____ is always perfect. **Eccl.3:11**

God has a way of humbling even the most prideful of people, so that circumstances can bring them to their senses. (Heb.12:11) God's goal is a broken man, crying out to God for that empowerment that he once had, so that he yearns to be used of God, once again. This is often God's perfect timing; Samson had to reach the bottom of the barrel, before he realised how much he needed God. (**Psa.34:6**)

2. God's _____ is always present and available. **Heb. 4:16**

The Lord always will extend His Grace to a Child of his. In the case of Samson, God allowed the Philistines to pluck out his eyes and to despitefully treat him. But God still had a plan to use Samson for greatness in spite of his apparent defeat. The Bible says that the hair of his head began to grow again. (**Judges 16:22**) This is Important, because it teaches us that even when the Christian seems defeated, His grace is ever present with him.

3. God _____ is always Sufficient. **Mark 12:24**

- a. Samson in his lifetime had done some amazing acts of heroism in defeating the arch enemy of Israel. Whatever the task was, Samson was always up to it.
- b. But, his greatest victory was yet to come. It is for this reason that his name ends up in Hebrews chapter 11. The Philistines wanted to make more sport of Samson, so they had a great banquet and brought Samson along to mock him some more. Samson gets between the pillars of the house, and he prays for _____ empowerment to bring the house down, so that he can get revenge for his two eyes. (**Judg. 16:25-28**)
- c. And the Bible says that he slew more Philistines in his death than his whole lifetime put together.

III. Conclusion:

- A. Your greatest enemy is yourself. Samson may have battled the Philistines for over 20 years, but his greatest enemy was himself.
- B. Samson's greatest sin was that he didn't need God
- C. Sooner or later, Sin always has a way of catching up with us; you may be fine right now, but there will come a day of deep regret.
- D. Even when it seems like all hope is gone, there is always a opportunity of a Child of God to live by faith.
- E. Samson enters the Great Hall of Faith, for this one act at the end of his life. He joins the Old Testament Saints, people like, Gideon, Samuel, and even the great king David.

IV. Review Questions

- A. What kind of family was Samson born into? _____
- B. Who was Samson's greatest enemy? _____
- C. What did Samson finally show at the end of his life? _____
- D. Did God use Samson at the end of his life?
- E. Do you see a life wasted?

V. Personal Questions

- A. Who is YOUR worst enemy?
- B. What do YOU need to do to defeat this enemy?
- C. Do you believe God will use you if you will trust in Him completely?

Jephthah's Foolish Faith

Lesson 22

Hebrews 11:32 (Judges 10:16 - 11:35)

Hebrews 11:32 *“And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of _____; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets”*

I. Introduction (Rom 1:17; Numbers 23:19)

- A. Studying through Hebrews 11, and examining the lives that God has openly presented in the pages of this Book for us to learn just what faith IS, and how to live by it ourselves.
- B. Out of all the people listed in Hebrews 11, two are puzzling: one is named Samson (which we studied last week), and the other is Jephthae. These two are not GREAT lives of faith, yet God includes them as men of faith to learn from. Lesson #1: Failure can often time be the best teacher. You don't always have to see success in someone's life – You can learn from their _____!.
- C. According to Rom 1:17, the Christian grows, by steps of "faith" not works, and promises, and vows, and bargains - this is what we need to learn!
- D. According to Num 23:19, when God makes a promise, He keeps it. You don't have to bargain with God, and make double sure that He is going to keep His promises to you, like:
 1. The promise of eternal life (Tit 1:2)
 2. The promise of a sound mind (2 Tim 1:7)
 3. The promise of being free, truly free from sin's control (John 8:36)
- E. What we are going to watch happen today, is a man of great courage, and faith, trying to make sure that God keeps His promises - Jephthae trusts God, but happens to believe that there must be a bargaining system going on, and so makes promises to God IF He will do such and such!
- F. We need to learn to take God at His word, and set out to obey HIM - not constantly bargaining with God so we can get more than we currently have!

II. Background (Judges 10:6-18)

- A. _____ What You _____ (Judges 10:6-9; Gal 6:7)
 1. Israel loved this world, and all the powers that it had
 2. Israel forsook their God - the One who loved them, and brought them here
 3. Proves that you cannot love both the world, AND the Lord!
 4. Israel reaped slavery. Either you are a servant of God, or a servant of sin!
- B. Repentance that _____ (10:10-16)
 1. Repentance must be more than empty words
 - a. God had heard these words so many times before

- b. God reminded them of His efforts to prove Himself, and His commitment to them - but He wants consistency

2. Repentance must be tested

- a. For steadfastness - when God tries to push you away
- b. For total surrender - "do as you will" (thy will be done), as long as you, and you alone are our Deliverer!

- C. **Ready for Deliverance now (10:16-18)**

1. With that kind of attitude, God can do His work - He yearns to do something for our situations we find ourselves in - but we must understand it was _____ who got ourselves into so much trouble!
2. Israel believes God, and prepares for battle, and waits for a leader to come!

III. Lesson - Jephthah's Foolish Faith

- A. **Jephthae's Struggles** - His _____ (Jud. 11:1-3)

1. Problems with his parents - Gilead's unfaithfulness
2. Problems with his siblings - thought less of him - saw him as a threat - kicked hi out of the home
3. Problems with himself - attracted "vain men" - bad friends to make up for lack of family

- B. **Jephthae's Strength** - His _____ (11:1)

1. Adversity can make a man out of a boy: "Adversity makes men, [while] prosperity makes monsters." --Victor Hugo
2. Jephthae didn't allow life to make mince out of him - he developed great courage and valour - which became well-known.
3. TRUTH: If you are saved, let _____ mould you and make you stronger - don't let _____ crush you, and hold you back!

- C. **Jephthae's Surrendered Heart** - His Cry unto God (11:4,11)

1. Those that thought of Jephthae as a threat, and as not belonging, now came to him, asking him to lead them in battle against their enemies
2. Jephthae knew the battle was bigger than anything he dealt with before
3. So Jephthae takes the _____ to God
 - a. Lays everything out in prayer before God - like a true general would before his own Commanding Officer
 - b. Expresses his every concern and thought
 - c. Surrenders to God's good will - knowing that God knows best!

D. Jephthae's Search of the Scriptures - His Court (11:12-24, 27,28)

1. Wanted to know the source of the problem between Israel and her enemies
 - a. The Ammonites wanted a piece of property they claimed was theirs
 - b. It used to belong to the Amorites
2. Went to the Bible for the answers
 - a. Found that Israel had bent over backwards to get along with them
 - b. Found that Israel had acted in self-defense when attacked
 - c. Found that the Lord God had conquered the Amorites Himself, and therefore belong to HIM!
3. Concluded that the Ammonites need to be satisfied with what their god gives them - what a slam!!! *Learn to disregard ALL false gods and powers*
4. But, the king of the Amorites wont listen to truth - S.O.P.

E. Jephthae's Signal - the Holy Spirit - His Conscience (11:29)

1. Jephthae had done everything he could to avert war
2. Now, it was time for God to lead - and He did through the Holy Spirit of God (Cf Rom 8:14-16; 2 Cor 2:14-16)
3. It is important to learn to WAIT on God's signal in your spirit (Gal 5:16,25; 1 Thes 5:19) - learn to sense God's leading, and to follow it, instead of your own belly!!!

F. Jephthae's Insecurity - His Coercion (11:30,31)

1. His problem with God
 - a. Unable to completely trust God's promises - like most of us!
 - b. Unable to rest in God's Spirit - like most of us!
2. His deal with God
 - a. Jephthae tries to "MAKE" God *for sure* win the battle - making sure God won't let Jephthae down
 - b. Jephthae doesn't want to be humiliated, so he makes his deal - whatever God wants, God can have, as long as Jephthae wins - sound familiar?
 - c. Same thing happened with Jacob (Gen 28:20-22) - conditional Christian life - holding God over a barrel - SORRY! HE HOLDS US!!!
 - d. It wasn't sinful to have small faith - just to have foolish faith where you promise God the Moon, only IF He will do what YOU want!
3. Vows (Our promises, and contracts) are not for making deals with God, but for the glory of God
 - a. As in marriage - not as a deal to get something out of God!
 - b. As in surrender to preach - not as a deal to get something out of God!

- c. "*We must not promise what we ought not, lest we be called on to perform what we cannot.*" -- Abraham Lincoln (which is what is about to happen)!

G. Jephthae's Success - His Conquest (11:32,33)

1. The Lord handed the enemy over into Jephthae's hands - too easy
2. It was a great victory
 - a. Was it because of the great vow of Jephthae?
 - b. Was it because of the heart of Jephthae, and God's people being back right with God?
 - c. There was no need to copper-fasten the outcome with a foolish vow

H. Jephthae's Sorrow - His Own Crop (11:34,35). Reaped what he sowed!

1. Jephthae expected one of his prize animals to come out of his tent
2. But rather, Jephthae's only child - a daughter came out rejoicing for her daddy's victory!
3. And Jephthae blames her for his sorrow - It is Adam all over
 - a. Adam didn't think it was that serious to disobey God
 - b. Thought he could accept a little slap on the wrist
 - c. But found out he was to lose everything
 - d. And then blamed the woman!!!
4. Jephthae's faith was fine; it was his insecurity during the battle itself that caused him to try and MAKE God win the battle - manipulating the outcome! This was his foolishness, and he reaped what he sowed - the death of his only child, after such a great victory!

IV. Conclusion - Jephthae's Foolish Faith

- A. **Jephthae's Struggles** - His Childhood had lots of problems
- B. **Jephthae's Strength** - His Courage in the face of adversity
- C. **Jephthae's Surrendered Heart** - His Cry unto the Lord for leadership and help
- D. **Jephthae's Search of the Scriptures** - His Court of appeal when under attack
- E. **Jephthae's Signal** - the Holy Spirit - His Conscience goes on high alert
- F. **Jephthae's Insecurity** - His Coercion of God to make God win!
- G. **Jephthae's Success** - His Conquest of the enemy - great victory
- H. **Jephthae's Sorrow** - His Own Crop - He reaped what *he* sowed!
- I. Don't be foolish in your faith, where you believe God's promises, but you feel you have to make deals with God, and offer God this and that in your life. You don't begin BY FAITH, and then grow, by bartering off things - paying off God!

V. Review Questions

David's Giant Faith

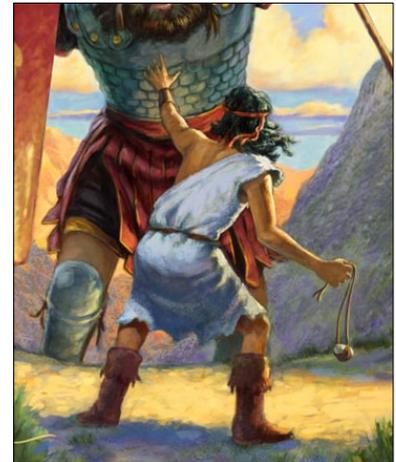
Lesson 23

Hebrews 11:32 (1 Samuel 17:40-53)

Hebrews 11:32 *“And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of _____ also, and Samuel, and of the prophets”*

I. Introduction

- A. This is the faith we all want to have. _____ faith!
- B. We should want to face the giants that threaten us head on with courage and bravery. We should want to be able to trust God in the face of impossible odds and situations.
- C. But this faith does not come all at once, but builds inside of us as we trust God for the small things and see God time and time again show Himself strong.



II. Background for study – 1Sam.16:1

- A. David was the son of Jesse the Bethlehemite. (Jesus will be born also in the little town of Bethlehem 1,000 years later). He was to be king of Israel by the will of God. David was the youngest of Jesse' eight sons. He was the shepherd of the sheep in the family of Jesse his father. God said He would provide Himself a king. Saul was the people's king but now we have David, handpicked by the Lord. What a great king David would turn out to be. Jesus is said to sit on the throne of David not Saul, Solomon, or any other king of Israel. Why? David was a man after God's heart. There were in total 41 kings. Three Saul, David and Solomon ruled over a unified Israel but after the split into Israel in the north and Judah in the south each had 19 kings. Out of all of them (and there were some good ones) it is David who is spoken of as the one whose throne Jesus ascend. David came through godly line that the Messiah would be born. The day was coming when the King of the Jews, the Redeemer would sit on the throne of David. The book of Ruth shows us David's lineage.
- B. **Ruth 4:17 - 22** *And the women her neighbours gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed: he is the father of Jesse, the father of _____.* Now these are the generations of Pharez: Pharez begat Hezron, And Hezron begat Ram, and Ram begat Amminadab, And Amminadab begat Nahshon, and Nahshon begat Salmon, And Salmon begat Boaz, and Boaz begat Obed, And Obed begat Jesse, and Jesse begat David.

III. Lesson - David's Giant Faith (1Samuel 17:40-53)

- A. David foregoes the armour and sword of Saul and takes his staff and chooses 5 _____ out of a nearby brook and puts them in a small bag or satchel called a srip. These stones were chosen not randomly picked up. David was preparing to use what he knew and had proved or tested. David knew how to sling a stone to ward off a predator of the sheep he watched over. After make what preparations he felt he needed he drew near to the 9 foot giant.
- B. David enters the field of battle with his sling and a cause (1 Sam. 17:29); God's honour and glory. The Philistine enters the field of battle with his armour, sword and all his own strength and fighting skills. It doesn't look real promising here. The giant also has an armour bearer carrying his shield.
- C. The giant catches a good look at the Israel's champion as feels slighted that he was sent a little shepherd boy with his staff instead of a warrior. Did Goliath see the sling? Who knows but he wouldn't have been concerned by this young Jewish boy. What am I a dog he says the giant that you pit this little runt against me? Goliath curses David by his gods who would be Dagon and others.
- D. The giant urges David to come forward and get his due. I will feed your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field he says. David fires right back at the huge warrior before him and says; you come with a sword, shield and armour, but I come in to thee in the name of the LORD the God of the armies of Israel whom you have defied. This is a good cause and spells trouble for Goliath.
- E. This very day David said to Goliath, the LORD will deliver you into my hand and I will take off your head. Beside all the carcasses of the hosts of the Philistines will be fed to the birds and beasts. This will be done that all the earth will know there is a God in Israel.
- F. David reminds the giant that the LORD doesn't need a _____ or _____ to fight His battles as you will soon see. **1Sam.17:47**
1. David was standing and speaking by faith. He was trusting in a God he knew and the weapons he knew. We should fight our battles the same way; with a Lord we know and a weapon we know – the Bible.
 2. The giant had heard enough and started toward David. That was all David needed to see so he took off running toward the giant. Are we told in the Bible not to flee the Devil but resist him. What David did flee from was sin and had a pure heart before his God. We are flee sin also and it would make us stronger in the battle also.
 3. David advances toward Goliath and sticks his hand into the bag and draws out a stone and with the accuracy that came from both faith in his God and ability with his sling he sent the stone flying. The stone met its mark which happened to be square between the eyes of Goliath. The giant went down on his face straight away. There lay the hope of the Philistines.

4. David prevailed over the giant but not with a sword but only a sling and stone. God doesn't need our great abilities but uses what we have. God should get the glory not us.

G. David was a man after God's own _____, which means he loved, obeyed and pleased Him. **Acts 13:22**

1. It's one to be big and strong physically but a whole different thing to have big, strong faith. Anyone can have the faith David had if they simply would love and obey God as David did. David did what he was told to do. He was told to keep the sheep **1Sam.16:11** and that is where he was when they went looking for him. He was where he was supposed to be doing what he was supposed to do. David was instructed of his father to take provisions to his brothers and he did just that. **1Sam.17:17- 20**
2. The key to David's great faith and courage against Goliath was that David had a _____.
3. David had a great purpose which was to honour God. David wanted to roll away the reproach against Go's people. 1Sam. 17:26-29
4. Also, spread God's name and glorify Him. 1Sam.17:46, 47 *This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands.*

H. David believed _____, and his responsibility was to trust and obey! **1Sam.17:47**

1. We must have such a relationship everyday with God. Trust Him, obey Him so when the giant comes (such as... sickness, doubt, financial, the flesh, and the giant of self, sitting on the throne of our heart) that we will believe God and slay that giant by faith. Faith – simply trusting in God's ways, strength and promises.
2. David didn't get the best armour, sword, bow and arrow, or a hundred men to fight the giant. Our best plans and weapons are fruitless against the giants without God's help. John 15:5 David got himself 5 smooth stones and relied what little he could do coupled with an Omnipotent God. Our little becomes much in His hands. Trust Him. Do what we can and put our faith in what He can do.
3. Luke 1:37 *“For with God nothing shall be impossible.”*
4. We trust those we love. David loved God with all his heart. Ps.42:1, 2 *“As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?”*

I. There are so many places in the Psalms where David speaks in praise, love and thankfulness to God. David was in awe of God and it begs the question; Are

we in awe of God? Ps.8:1-4 David wondered why God even took notice of us. This awe and reference of God helped David believe God for great victories.

1. We should have such a relationship with God that it permeates into every area of our lives, so, that when the giants of fear and doubt arise, we will fall into His mighty hand. We can't run and hide every time our lives experience a problem or even a disaster. – That is life!
2. Job 5:7 “*Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward.*”
3. We must stand in the strength of the Lord and trust in Him.
4. Eph. 6:10 “*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.*”

IV. Review Questions

- A. How big was David?
- B. How big was David's adversary?
- C. What was David's real weapon?
- D. How big was David's cause?
- E. What was David's cause?
- F. How big was David's faith?

V. Personal Questions

- A. How big is the giant in your life?
- B. What weapon are you using against the giant?
- C. Do you have a cause you are fighting for?
- D. How big is your faith in your God?
- E. How big is your God?

Samuel's Lifelong Faith

Lesson 24

Hebrews 11:32; 1 Samuel 3-8

Hebrews 11:32 *“And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:”*

I. Introduction (Rom 1:17; Heb 11:32)

- A. *Lifelong Faith* is not sporadic, but a consistent, step by step application of a person's faith as they obey and live by God's word, the Bible!
- B. *Lifelong Faith* is simply, faith for a lifetime - not just Sunday-time!
- C. What we need to learn from Samuel, as well as from most of the others listed in this Bible, is that faith is something that is LIVED, and grows step by step on a day by day basis

II. Background

- A. It was a wicked time in history (as it usually is)!
- B. Hannah had no children. So she turned to the Lord and prayed for a son. *“The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man _____ much”* (Jam 5:16)
- C. And God answered her prayer - in more ways than she realized. The Lord provided her with a child named _____ that turned out to be God's answer to the wickedness of Israel - Samuel would bring Israel back to God, and prepare it for its greatest days - the days of King David and Solomon!
- D. But everything would take a while - take a lifetime as a matter of fact. The key is that Samuel was prepared for a lifetime of living by faith - are you?

III. Message - Lifelong Faith - Samuel (1 Samuel 3:1-10)

A. Samuel's Faith Began at a Young Age (1:27,28) - Salvation

- 1. Everyone needs *child-like* faith (Mt 18:3) - the faith of a child, not an adult
- 2. It is best when you are a child - like Timothy was (2 Tim 3:14,15)
- 3. So, don't put off developing faith, a simple dependence, an obedient attitude towards God (2 Cor 6:2,3), not the church, or towards prayer, or anything but Christ - the longer you put off salvation, the harder it is to get saved (Zech 7:13,14) because pride will dominate your life instead of Christ!

B. Make Sure You Develop Your Faith into a Walk (1 Sam 3:19) - Integration

- 1. Most people's "faith" is something they don't personally believe and live by – it is just something that their priest, or pastor, or their parents believe
 - a. Some people actually believe what they read in this Book (Acts 24:14)!

- b. But so few actually integrate what they know to be truth, into the way they walk, talk, love, hate, work, and rest - it is like they live TWO lives (one on Sunday, and the other during the rest of the week)
2. This is where Christians lose it (we start off excited, and full of energy, only to lose it and become cold, and uninterested - it was not so with the first churches - Rev 2:1-3; 18,19)
 - a. No one can just float around and expect to grow spiritually. Far too many people here just float from day to day with NO place of employment, and just get themselves into TROUBLE
 - b. Young and old alike need to have a place of purpose, a place of *spiritual* service - a place to be busy for God (as opposed to TV)
 - c. Samuel, though small, was faithful at his post - opening and shutting the doors of the house of the Lord (1 Sam 2:18; 3:15; Cf Ps 84:10)
 - d. Everybody in here needs to find a place of REAL Christian service, and be faithful in doing it
 - e. That's why we have preaching and teaching twice on Sundays - so that you have a place to anchor your lives, and your family's lives, and so that people can serve one another, and not the devil!
3. Stay sensitive (soft-hearted) to toward God's words (1 Sam 3:2-10)
4. Obey this Book - let none of God's words fall to the ground (1 Sam 3:19) - take Him seriously, and trust Him implicitly - without hesitation

C. Depend Totally on God's Word (1 Sam 3:1,19-21; Rom 10:17) - Expectation

1. Lifelong faith has to be built upon something that you can turn to again and again, and know that it will always be there, the same - God's word
2. Lifelong faith is developed only upon revelation - not blind. No one can know God without knowing this Book!
3. Lifelong faith needs to settle that what God says is true from start to finish, and that God can be trusted (Ps 119:160)

D. Seek to Affect Others – he never was in a "survival mode" (1 Sam 4:1) - Persuasion

1. Samuel began to spread the word of God with urgency (like the disciples did in the First century, Acts 1:8; 8:1-4)
2. Samuel was not just putting out suggestions - had authority (1 Sam 7:3,4)
3. Samuel didn't live the Christian life only at church - he lived it everywhere he went (1 Sam 7:16,17) - Everyone knew he knew God
4. Samuel worked hard at directing his home (1 Sam 7:17)

E. Never Stop Praying for Others (1 Sam 7:5-7) - Supplication

1. A *Lifelong Faith* prays, and prays, and prays, and then prays some more!
2. Praying (asking, pleading) for others is the true mark of prayer - if your prayer time is totally about you, and your problems, and your needs, then

you need to open your heart to the needs of others, and start asking God to use you to meet those needs

- a. For people's salvation - when was the last time you prayed about somebody specific to get saved, and for God to use YOU to do it?!
- b. For people's supply - when was the last time you prayed about something you knew someone else needed, instead of only what **you** need?
- c. For your pastor - to be what people need, and to be strong in the Lord!
- d. For our government - we are commanded to pray for those in authority

F. Persevere to Please God - Seek God's "Well Done!" - Determination

1. When times are hard (1 Sam 8:6) - when people are in rebellion to God
2. When times are great - Samuel left a great legacy for Israel
 - a. Samuel got to anoint two kings (_____ and _____)
 - b. He brought Israel back right with God
 - c. He saw so many lives transformed (1 Sam 10:9; 16:13)
 - d. He established 80 years of peace
 - e. He started writing two Books that still bare His name (_____)!
3. *Lifelong Faith* must have something in sight as a goal more valuable than anything IN life itself - it must be God's _____ (Jn 12:42,43; Mt 25:21; 2Tim 4:7,8)
4. That goal will keep you on track, and sane through the entire trip

IV. Review Questions

- A. When should you Begin to have a Life-long faith?

- B. Faith is not something you just believe, but something you integrate into a daily what? _____
- C. Who was Samuel's mother? Hannah
- D. What should a Christian pray for like Samuel?
 1. _____ .
 2. _____ .
 3. _____ .
 4. _____ .
- E. Samuel got to anoint what two kings? _____ and _____