

## The Book of Hebrews

Chapter 11: verses 8 to 22 - Pastor Charles A. Hall – November 17, 2022

**Chapter 11** of the Hebrew epistle deals primary with faith, and those in the Old Testament who stood firm on their faith even though they could not see the promise, which was still afar off. This chapter further compares the faith of the Old testament fathers with the faith exercised by Christian believers. Although the Old Testament heroes had real faith, they did not receive the promise of God. The purpose for the delayed promised was to ensure that the Old testament heroes, were not made perfect apart from the priesthood work of Jesus Christ.

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.
  - Abraham was faithful in hearing and obeying the voice of God, when God instructed him to leave Haran and his father's house, Abraham obeyed God, even though he did not know where God was leading him. This unknown land would become his inheritance.
    - Genesis 12:1-4
9. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:
  - By faith Abraham traveled to the land that God promised him, during his travels he stayed in tents with his son Isaac and grandson Jacob who would also be the heirs of the promised God made to Abraham.
10. For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.
  - Abraham obeyed God and traveled by faith in search of a place liken unto heaven that foundations were not made by human hand, but by God.
11. 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.
  - Abraham's wife Sara also had faith in God, and as a result of her faith and belief in God, He blessed her, and she conceived a child even in her old age.
    - Genesis 17:19
12. 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.
  - Even though Abraham's old physical body was considered dead for the purpose of fathering a child, because of his faithfulness God allowed him to father a son, and many more, they will be like the stars in the sky, and like sand by the sea, too many to number.
    - Romans 4:19

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

- Abraham and his heirs who were faithful, and who trusted and obeyed God, all died without having received the promises of God, however by faith they saw them in the distance, and they were convinced that they were real, and they embraced God's promises, and declared that the earth was not their home.

14. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.

- Those that saw by faith the promises of God, even though there were no physical nor tangible proof, stated firmly that they were looking for a country beyond the earth.

15. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.

- If they had their affection and desire on the country that they had left, then they could have had an opportunity to return.

16. But now they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

- But now, by faith Abraham and his heirs wanted a better country, a heavenly place where God is pleased to be their God, and where He has prepared a city for them.

17. By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,

- By faith Abraham trusted God and believed in His promises and he offered up his only son to God as a sacrifice, which served as confirmation of his faith.

18. Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:

- For God has already spoken to Abraham that his son Isaac would be the son who would inherit the promise.

19. Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.

- Abraham believed by faith that God was able to raise up Isaac from the dead, because he had already seen a picture in his mind of the work of God.

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

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- It was by faith that Isaac bestowed a blessing upon Jacob and Esau concerning things in the future.
  - Genesis 27:26-40

21. By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff.

- Even though Jacob was weak and dying, his faith in God was steadfast, and he was able to give future blessings to the two sons of Joseph.
  - Genesis 48:1-5

22. By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones.

- By faith when Joseph was dying, he spoke of the Israelite leaving Egypt, and he gave specific instructions concerning his burial.
  - Genesis 50:24-25