

Faith Factor – Pt. 2

⁸By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place which he would later receive as an inheritance, obeyed and **went**, even though he did not know where he was going. ⁹By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country: **he lived in tents**, as did Isaac and Jacob who were heirs with him of the same promise.

¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. -Hebrews 11:8-10

¹¹By faith Abraham, even though he was past age—and Sarah herself was barren—was enabled to become a father **because he considered Him faithful who made the promise**. ¹²And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore. -Hebrews 11:11-12

THE PERSON OF FAITH

I. Intro

A. Principle—Priority—**Person**—Process

B. The Person of faith

a. Abraham's faith was not in his ABILITY

b. Abraham's faith was not in a THEOLOGY, a DOCTRINE, or an IDEOLOGY

c. Abraham's faith was in a PERSON—God Himself.

d. Writer of Hebrews "Let us fix our eyes on JESUS the author and perfecter of our FAITH"

e. Paul did not say I know in WHAT I have believed he said I know in WHOM I have believed...that he is able to keep that which I entrust to Him.

C. "What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—**guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit** who lives in us." -2 Timothy 1:13-14

II. By Faith Abraham...WENT

A. ⁸By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place which he would later receive as an inheritance, obeyed and **went**, even though he did not know where he was going.

B. He didn't know where he was going? 🤔

C. If we're going to walk by faith we're going to have to **EMBRACE MYSTERY.**

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- D. God is not obligated to give us all the details of the trip—He never does.
 - a. *“If you're only willing to obey until you understand, you'll always be too late.” -Tony Miller*
 - b. Faith requires RISK—playing it safe is not safe!
 - c. Faith requires HUMILITY—the humility to not have all the answers
- E. We often get stuck because we don't have all the details. (paralysis by analysis)
 - a. Mary's visitation (Luke 1:34)
 - b. *“HOW will this be?” – Mary*
 - c. *“The Holy Spirit...” -Gabriel*
 - d. *“Not by might, nor by power, but by **MY SPIRIT** says the Lord.” -Zech. 4:6*

III. By Faith Abraham...STAYED

- A. *⁹By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country: **he lived in tents**, as did Isaac and Jacob who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.*
- B. What do you do when you're in the hallways of life?
 - a. You're not where you were
 - b. But you're not where you want to be
 - c. You've obeyed but you haven't seen the breakthrough
 - d.
- C. Two sides of faith—“believing for” and “trusting in.”
 - a. Believing FOR is exciting because there's movement.
 - b. Believing FOR faith can mask ambition
 - c. Trusting IN faith purifies us of ambition
 - d. Ambition can only take you so far
 - e. SUBmission in the process PURIFIES us from ambition
 - f. Submission will always take you further than ambition because God can trust you with the promise
 - g. Ambition will make you believe that you're wasting time and you become open the temptation to skip the process.
- D. Trusting IN can be painful, discouraging, and frustrating
 - a. To MAINTAIN can be harder to OBTAIN
 - b. It's easier to obtain children than it is to maintain them☺
 - c. It's exciting to *get* married it takes effort to *stay* married.
 - d. Planting is fun and harvest is FUN—but cultivating the crop can be hot, sweaty, and boring.
 - e. Yet, it's “by faith AND PATIENCE we obtain the promise.” (Heb. 6:12)
 - f. The temptation of TRUSTING IN seasons is laziness.
 - g. Our faith is never passive.

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- h. We have to aggressively believe even as the call is to BE STILL.
- i. Trusting in faith can be more difficult than believing for faith.

IV. By faith Abraham...**WORSHIPED**

- A. Abraham was enabled (strength, power, ability) to do the impossible because HE CONSIDERED GOD's character.
- B. Faith grows not by focusing on IT but by focusing on GOD.
- C. "He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but **was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God**, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform." -Romans 4:20-21
- D. Abraham's secret to faith—**WORSHIP!**
- E. Worship changes our PERSPECTIVE
- F. "For as the heavens are **higher** than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts." -Isaiah 55:9 NKJV
- G. Story: God's facial expression over my problems
- H. Thoughts about worship...
 - a. God focused before *need* focused
 - 1. Praise should come before Prayer
 - a. Praise goes up
 - b. Prayer comes down
 - 2. Lord's Prayer our example
 - 3. Matt. 1:3 "Judah beget Perez"
 - a. Judah means "Praise"
 - b. Beget means "birth"
 - c. Perez means "Breakthrough"
 - d. "Praise births breakthrough"
 - b. Praise is telling the atmosphere about the character of God
 - 1. His Power
 - 2. His Faithfulness
 - 3. His Kindness
 - 4. His Accomplishments/track record
 - c. Praise BUILDS faith
 - d. Praise INITIATED by us
 - e. Praise builds the house—worship is when God moves in.

V. Conclusion

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- A. A.W. Milne – missionary to the head hunting tribes in New Hebrides located in the South Pacific
 - a. Packed a coffin rather than a suitcase
 - b. Lived 35 years with the tribe.
 - c. Epitaph the tribe enshrined on his headstone:
 - d. *“When he came there was no light—when he left there was no darkness.”*

- B. Following God and living for Him requires you to be ALL IN.
 - a. You’ve got to push all your chips to the center of the table.
 - b. This gospel reveals a righteous that is by faith from first to last.
 - c.