

The Faith of Abraham

Lesson 1 An Obedient Faith

The Faith of Abraham

1. An obedient faith
2. Justified by a believing trusting working faith
3. Walking in a hoping growing faith
4. "if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants,"

2

The Faith of Abraham

- Much is written in the New Testament about how Abraham's faith pleased God
- His faith is an example of how our faith must be to please God
- Sadly, many errors are taught about faith distorting Abraham's great example
- What characterized Abraham's faith?
- To be in Christ, Abraham's spiritual descendants, we must have faith like his

3

Overcoming False Teachings About Faith and Obedience

- The Jews praised Abraham as perfect in faith but wrongly believed they could be saved by perfect law keeping without much thought about God's mercy
- We too can err believing we are saved by perfectly obeying God neglecting mercy
- The denominations minimize obedience believing we are saved by one-time belief alone and can not be lost after once being saved

4

An Obedient Faith

1. He believed to the point of obeying God's word
2. Although not flawless his obedient faith was ongoing
3. Faith without works is dead
4. We must have faith that obeys the gospel today

5

He Believed To The Point of Obeying God's Word

Gen 15:6 Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Gen 12:1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you;

Gen 12:2 And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing;

6

He Believed To The Point of Obeying God's Word

Gen 12:3 And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

Gen 12:4 So Abram went forth as the LORD had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

7

He Believed To The Point of Obeying God's Word

Gen 12:5 Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his nephew, and all their possessions which they had accumulated, and the persons which they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan; thus they came to the land of Canaan.

Gen 12:6 Abram passed through the land as far as the site of Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. Now the Canaanite was then in the land.

8

He Believed To The Point of Obeying God's Word

Gen 12:7 The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him.

Gen 12:8 Then he proceeded from there to the mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD.

9

He Believed To The Point of Obeying God's Word

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Heb 11:2 For by it the men of old gained approval.

Heb 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

10

He Believed To The Point of Obeying God's Word

Heb 11:8 By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going.

Heb 11:9 By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign *land*, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise;

11

He Believed To The Point of Obeying God's Word

Heb 11:10 for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

12

He Believed To The Point of Obeying God's Word

Heb 11:13 All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

Heb 11:14 For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own.

13

He Believed To The Point of Obeying God's Word

Heb 11:15 And indeed if they had been thinking of that *country* from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return.

Heb 11:16 But as it is, they desire a better *country*, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.

14

Although Not Flawless His Obedient Faith Was Ongoing

Gen 16:2 So Sarai said to Abram, "Now behold, the LORD has prevented me from bearing *children*. Please go in to my maid; perhaps I will obtain children through her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.

15

Although Not Flawless His Obedient Faith Was Ongoing

Gen 16:3 After Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Abram's wife Sarai took Hagar the Egyptian, her maid, and gave her to her husband Abram as his wife.

Gen 16:4 He went in to Hagar, and she conceived; and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her sight.

16

Although Not Flawless His Obedient Faith Was Ongoing

Gen 17:10 "This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: every male among you shall be circumcised.

Gen 17:11 "And you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin, and it shall be the sign of the covenant between Me and you.

17

Although Not Flawless His Obedient Faith Was Ongoing

Gen 17:12 "And every male among you who is eight days old shall be circumcised throughout your generations, a *servant* who is born in the house or who is bought with money from any foreigner, who is not of your descendants.

18

Although Not Flawless His Obedient Faith Was Ongoing

Gen 17:23 Then Abraham took Ishmael his son, and all *the servants* who were born in his house and all who were bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham's household, and circumcised the flesh of their foreskin in the very same day, as God had said to him.

Gen 17:24 Now Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. 19

Although Not Flawless His Obedient Faith Was Ongoing

Gen 18:18 since Abraham will surely become a great and mighty nation, and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed?

Gen 18:19 "For I have chosen him, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him." 20

Although Not Flawless His Obedient Faith Was Ongoing

Heb 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten *son*;

Heb 11:18 *it was he* to whom it was said, "IN ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS SHALL BE CALLED."

Heb 11:19 He considered that God is able to raise *people* even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type. 21

Faith Without Works Is Dead

Jas 2:21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar?

Jas 2:22 You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected;

22

Faith Without Works Is Dead

Jas 2:23 and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS," and he was called the friend of God.

Jas 2:24 You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone. 23

Faith Without Works Is Dead

Jas 2:25 In the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?

Jas 2:26 For just as the body without *the* spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead. 24

We Must Have Faith That Obeys The Gospel Today

Act 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified."

Act 2:37 Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

25

We Must Have Faith That Obeys The Gospel Today

Act 2:38 Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Act 2:41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

26

We Must Have Faith That Obeys The Gospel Today

Act 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Act 8:22 "Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you.

27

We Must Have Faith That Obeys The Gospel Today

Rom 6:3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

Rom 6:4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

28

We Must Have Faith That Obeys The Gospel Today

Rom 6:15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be!

Rom 6:16 Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone *as* slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?

29

We Must Have Faith That Obeys The Gospel Today

Rom 6:17 But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, Rom 6:18 and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

30

We Must Have Faith That Obeys The Gospel Today

Heb 3:12 Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.

Heb 3:13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is *still* called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Heb 3:14 For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end,

31

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32