

Faith That Pleases God - II

Introduction and Review

- ❑ Verses 1-3: Biblical faith involves the future & things invisible. It also involves obedient believers who whole-heartedly accept God as the Creator.
- ❑ Abel – by faith we must worship the Lord the way prescribed in scripture regardless of the way other people worship (v. 4).
- ❑ Enoch – by faith we must obey God in our personal lives regardless of the level of depravity in which we live (v. 5-6).
- ❑ Noah – by faith we must obey the word of God in redemptive ministry through long periods of opposition & hard work (v. 7).
- ❑ Today we'll learn more about this kind of faith that pleases God from Abraham with the greatest amount of details in the chapter.

I. Biblical Faith Believes God's Promise in Life (v. 8-12)

A. Obedience in leaving the familiar (v. 8-10)

*A believer must know when God is calling for obedience (v. 8a; Gen 12:1-3). A believer must also know what God is calling him to do – “to go”. By faith a believer must obey God's calling even without all the details – “not knowing where he was going”. By faith a believer & his family must be willing to make **genuine sacrifices** to obey the calling of God (v. 9) – home, career, friends, etc. The believer knows that **permanent stability** cannot be found in this life (v. 10) – no perfect city, job, school, church, etc.*

B. Receiving power for the impossible (v. 11-12, 17-19)

*By faith the believer knows that God is omnipotent & faithful (v. 11c; 6:18b). By faith the believer is able to look beyond physical limitations & trust God (v. 11b). Faith enables the believer to trust God when miraculous power is needed for impossibilities (v. 11a; Lk. 1:37). **Sarah trusted God for miraculous power to bring Isaac into the world at birth. Abraham trusted God for miraculous power to bring Isaac back into the world after death** (v. 17-19). Faith in God & obedience to God brings blessing to the lives of many people in the present & future (v. 12).*

II. Biblical Faith Believes God's Promise in Death (v. 13-16)

A. Dying in faith (v. 13)

*Abraham, Sarah, Isaac nor Jacob ever saw the multitude of descendants or owned any of the Promised Land. So they died without personally seeing the promise fulfilled, but they never doubted that God would keep His word. The believer does not lose **hope** when the call of God does not meet personal expectations – timing, method or results. *Believers know that God will fulfill His promises in His time & in His way (Is. 55:8-9).**

B. Thinking about heaven (v. 14-16)

*The bible gives a great deal of detail on heaven for our meditation & contemplation – no hunger, thirst, tears, sickness, stress, bills... just peace & joy. The believer should not have regrets for obeying God's call in faith (v. 15) – no regrets for the career, possessions, relationships, pleasures, etc. that were left behind (Lk. 9:62). For a brief lifetime we are citizens of the USA, but for eternity we are citizens of heaven our eternal home (v. 14, 16; Phil. 3:20). *Again the believer knows that God's best for us is not in this life, but in the next— no house, career, wealthy lifestyle or even relationship could ever compare to the glory of heaven (1Pe. 1:3-5).**

ILL: Prayer meeting last Wednesday, Dionna mentioned she had been considering leaving USA before disaster visits us as with all other powerful nations historically. But all nations & countries are vulnerable today as in the past – large, small, powerful or weak...

APPL: We all acknowledged Wednesday & we can all agree today that there is only one safe country where Jesus the Prince of Peace rules & reigns; where the lion will lay down with the lamb; where there's no more death, mourning, pain, war, murderers, liars, thieves, idolaters; where there is healing, worship & joy forever more – in the new heaven & earth...

CONCLUSION

So then my brothers & sisters what have you learned from Abraham, Sarah, Isaac & Jacob today? Have you obeyed the call of God on your life without all the details & are you making the necessary sacrifices for Christ? Are you depending upon the Lord for miraculous power where you are weak & physically unable to do what the call of God requires? Are you determined to never lose hope & serve the Lord until you die even when your personal expectations are not met? Do you anticipate heaven & meditate on heaven where all of your expectations and exceedingly more will be met knowing that heaven is your eternal home with eternal joy. I certainly hope your answer is YES I am living my life by this kind of faith that pleases God. If this is true then persevere in obedient service for Christ without regretting the things that have been sacrificed. If you are not answering the call of God this way, then when we bow to pray & meditate ask the Lord for help!

If you are not a Christian, then you should learn today that there is no other way to please God except by this kind of faith. And your faith must first be placed in Jesus to save you from the penalty of your sins. Your sins have separated you from God and Jesus has come to reconcile you back to Him. But you must believe...

SUBJECT: Faith That Pleases God – II

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