

The Faith of Abraham and Sarah (Heb. 11:8-19)

Vv. 8-10: By faith: **did not ask where** they were going – just went:

- Dwelt in tents – never built a house (no love for passing things)
- Yearned for a heavenly inheritance & an abode with God (v. 16)

Vv.11-16: By faith: **did not ask how** they would have a son in old age:

- When seemingly impossible Abraham fathered nations/multitudes
- Had not yet received the promises, but were assured of them
- Evidence of faith: Walked as pilgrims & strangers in the world

Vv.17-19: By faith: **did not ask why** when told to sacrifice Isaac:

- Testing (proving the quality of) faith a normal part of growth
- One unique son of promise – Isaac
- Abraham believed that God would resurrect Isaac if sacrificed

Unpacking the Life of Abraham – What Did God Teach Him?

Gen. 11: **To have no confidence in man (Gen. 11):** Delayed obedience and partial obedience are still disobedience – result in a *parched* life!

Gen. 12: **To have no confidence in Egypt or in his speech (Gen. 12):** Abraham built no altars in Egypt; asked Sarah to lie in an attempt to save himself; came out of Egypt with entrapments.

Gen. 13: **To have no confidence in his riches:** Departed Egypt with great riches, which caused friction among the brethren.

Gen. 14: **To have no confidence in his strength:** Melchizedek, the King of Peace, told Abraham that it was El Elyon that delivered him from his enemies. Partaking of the bread and wine before Melchizedek reminded Abraham of who gave him the victory – us too!

Gen. 16: **To have no confidence in his wisdom:** After ten years of frustration: Abraham heeded Sarah's wisdom and acted outside of God's will – Ishmael was born; he is a picture of the flesh in Scripture.

Gen. 17: **Sweet Restoration:**

- **A New Walk:** to be blameless before Almighty God
- **A New Name:** new life/new identity/new vitality.
- **A New Sign of God's Covenant – male circumcision:** a daily reminder to have no confidence in the flesh

Gen. 18: **Enjoying God's Presence**

- Abraham offers **worship to God** (vv. 1-8).
- Abraham receives **revelation from God** (vv. 9-15).
- Abraham enjoys **communion with God** (vv. 16-22).
- Abraham offers **intercession before God** (vv. 23-33).