

## Genesis – The Faith of Abraham Gen. 12:1-4

*Thesis: To learn from the faith of Abraham and to follow his example.*

### Introduction:

- A. While there are many things that Abraham could be noted for, perhaps the greatest of them would be his faith in God.
  - 1. No matter what the situation, Abraham always trusted in God.
  - 2. That faith is seen even today as we review two instances of great faith in the life of Abraham.
  
- B. The main point that we will see in the life of Abraham is the fact that his faith had great actions attached to it.

### I. Abraham showed his faith when he departed from his home country (12:1-4).

#### A. God had given a command and a promise to Abraham (12:1-3).

- 1. The command was for Abraham to go to a foreign land (12:1).
- 2. The promise was that God was going to bless him by making him a great nation (12:2-3).

#### B. Abraham obeyed God (12:4).

- 1. The very next phrase is “So Abram departed.”
  - a. It was an immediate reaction on the part of Abraham.
  - b. There was no doubt and no delay.
  - c. Abraham was 75 years old when he obeyed God.
- 2. Throughout the life of Abraham, God reiterated the promises that He had made to him.
  - a. God reiterated this promise of the possession of the land to Abraham.
    - 1) Gen. 12:4-7
    - 2) Gen. 13:14-17
  - b. God reiterated the promise of Abraham becoming a great nation.
    - 1) Gen. 15:1-6
    - 2) Gen. 17:15-21
- 3. Because Abraham obeyed God, God fulfilled the promises
  - a. Isaac was born to Abraham and Sarah twenty-five years later (Gen. 21).
  - b. The descendants of Abraham, the children of Israel, came to possess the land of Canaan, also known as the Promised Land (we read of it in the book of Joshua).
- 4. It is the faith of Abraham that we read of in the New Testament.
  - a. Heb. 11:8-12 - By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. {9} By faith he

dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; {10} for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. {11} By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. {12} Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude--innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

- b. The point is that Abraham was a man of great faith from the beginning of his life.
- c. Because of his faith, he obeyed God.

## II. Abraham showed his faith when he was willing to offer Isaac on the altar (22:1-19).

### A. God commanded Abraham to offer his son as a sacrifice to Him (22:1-2).

1. God is testing the faith of Abraham.
  - a. He wants Abraham to sacrifice His only son to Him.
  - b. God wants to know if Abraham will put Him above his son.
2. Put yourself in the place of Abraham.
  - a. God has told you to leave your country and go to a foreign land.
  - b. He promises to make your name great and to make you a mighty nation.
  - c. He has told you that this promise would come through your only son, Isaac.
  - d. Now God tells you to sacrifice your only begotten son.
  - e. Obviously, it was not an easy decision for Abraham to make.

### B. Abraham obeyed God (22:3-19).

1. Abraham immediately obeyed God.
  - a. Again, it was the next day that Abraham takes Isaac and goes to the mountain to sacrifice his son.
  - b. In fact, we read that he rose up “early in the morning” (22:3).
2. Because Abraham was faithful to God, God gave him another sacrifice instead of Isaac (22:9-14).
3. Again, it is the faith of Abraham that is noted in the New Testament.
  - a. Heb. 11:17-19 - By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, {18} of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called,” {19} concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.
  - b. Abraham believed in God and knew that He was going to be there for him.
  - c. Abraham was willing to do anything for God, including sacrificing His son.

**Practical Application:**

**III. We need to have the faith of Abraham.**

**A. The faith of Abraham was full of actions.**

1. When Abraham believed God, he acted on it.
2. When God told him to leave his country and depart to another, Abraham believed Him and obeyed Him.
3. When God told Abraham to offer Isaac on the altar, Abraham trusted God and obeyed Him.
4. His faith was always accompanied with actions.
5. **Js. 2:21-24** - Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? {22} Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? {23} And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God. {24} You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

**B. Our faith must be full of actions.**

1. **Js. 2:14-18** - What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? {15} If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, {16} and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? {17} Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. {18} But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.
2. **Js. 2:26** - For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

**Conclusion:**

Do we have the kind of faith that Abraham had?

Is our faith full of actions?1