

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 79

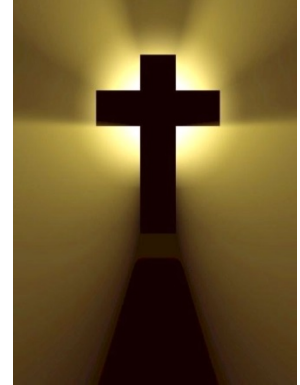
Faith Like That of Abraham



2014

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never personally believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Simply tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sins of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. ***(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." (John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave is One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."***



LESSON

We learned in our last lesson that in order to please God you must have ACTIVE FAITH...you must believe the promises of God and then rest in the fact that He will come through as promised. To make the point we'll look back at Abraham and the fantastic ACTIVE FAITH that he had.

God made a promise to Abraham. He told Abraham that he would be the father of many nations and that all the families of the world would be blessed by his Seed.



God's promises always center on the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ. The promises always point to Jesus and His work on the cross for all mankind. In fact when God said Abraham would be blessed by his Seed, God meant that the Seed was Jesus Christ.

So when God asked Abraham to sacrifice his only son Isaac, it was a test of faith in the promise God gave Abraham about being the father of many nations. The line of Jesus Christ would come through Isaac. Abraham believed God and so Abraham obeyed God and took Isaac up to Mount Moriah for the sacrifice. He must have thought that if God wanted him to sacrifice Isaac that God would bring Isaac back to life. You can tell Abraham believed Isaac would return with him by his conversation with his two servants that he brought along with him and Isaac. Let's read about it in ***Gen 22:3-5. "Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. (4) On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. (5) He said to his servants, 'Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."*** What does this say to you about Abraham's faith? Did he believe God? YES HE DID!!! His ACTIVE FAITH believed that he and his son, Isaac, would return to the servants!!! That's faith in God and His promises.




Isaac is the son that the Lord Jesus Christ would come from NOT any of Abraham's other sons. God chose Isaac to be in the line from which Jesus Christ would come. So Isaac had to be alive to have this promise come true. This was a huge test for Abraham...***"sacrifice your only son, Isaac for me!"*** Think about how hard that would have been for him. But Abraham believed God and he obeyed. God was VERY pleased with Abraham. God LOVES when we obey Him.



You know, Abraham looked forward to Christ's work on the cross. He longed for the day when it would happen. Today we look back at Jesus Christ's work on the cross. God was at work in Abraham's day preparing the way for His Son to be born. God is at work today also. What is He doing?

You will never find that out until you learn God's Word!! You have to want to know about God and His plan for all mankind and especially for believers. God's Word is where God has placed His promises to you. He has already given them to you. They are in writing in our Bibles!!

Where are your eyes though? 

In what things are you placing your mind, your concentration, or your trust? Where are your eyes? Hopefully it is on Jesus and His Word and NOT totally on you or what you want all the time.

In the time of Abraham, God was at work bringing the Jewish race (or species) on the scene so His Son could be born. Today God is at work in the Church Age (that's God's time period that we live in today) with the new spiritual species (believers). This is where God is doing things to show His Son Jesus to humans and to angels. He gave us the job to bring the Good News about Jesus to our families and friends. God uses the church to announce the Good News about Jesus and complete His promise to Abraham that in him all the families of the earth will be blessed.

It is the death and resurrection of Jesus becoming GOOD NEWS that needs to be ANNOUNCED to the world of unbelievers. God wants all men to be saved and come to the sure knowledge of the truth about Jesus. He wants all men to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.



What is God's chosen instrument for this? It's the Church (us...all believers today) which is Christ's body...His team... the fullness of Him who fills all in all!! HE through believers is broadcasting the wisdom of God to unbelievers and He is doing that using the Church (all believers today).

How does God do this? He has given all believers spiritual gifts to use to help build up and encourage the Body of Christ (all believers today). Eph 1:15-23 "For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints (believers), (16) do not stop giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers; (17) that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him (from learning the Bible). (18) I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope (confidence) of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, (19) and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe (in Jesus). These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might (20) which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, (21) far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. (22) And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as Head over all things to the church, (23) which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."

Guess what? He also gave us the Holy Spirit to live inside our bodies so we can do this. We don't need to rely on ourselves to do this work for God. We rely on the Word of God in our souls and the Spirit that lives inside us. The Spirit gives us the strength and the wisdom from the Word of God in your soul, and the right time to do it. Great, right? God supplies it all and we just need to have faith that through God we can do the work He assigns for us to do...bringing the Good News to unbelievers in our families and among our friends and people we meet. This builds confidence, too, because we rely on Him not ourselves. So don't think you can't do this...you CAN with God. We rely on Him who we cannot see.

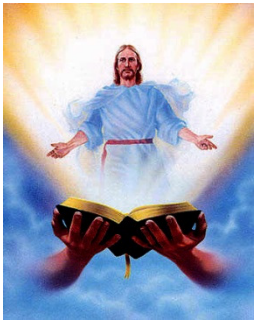
Heb 10:35-39 "Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. (36) For you have need of strength (from God the Holy Spirit), so that when you obey God, you may receive what was promised. (37) For yet in a little while He (Jesus) who is coming will come and will not delay. (38) But my righteous one will live by FAITH; and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him. (39) But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul."



Heb 11:1 "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for, the **certain** of what we do not see. (2) For by it the men of old (from the Old Testament times) gained approval (from God). (3) By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible."

Faith is trust and faith has to have an object to believe in. Also you believe by the authority of someone. In this case it is God. We can truly trust God. Why? Because God loves us and He is perfect and cannot lie to us. So you can believe the promise of God that says He will never leave you or desert you. The object of your faith is the promise from God.

In salvation, the object of our faith is the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. After salvation so you can serve God, the object of faith is the Word of God and the God who is revealed by His word. Faith is not something we do but faith is a way in which we trust or rely on what God has done for us. The Word of God teaches us about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit and God's plan for the world and for each believer individually. The Word of God or the promises in the Bible are the way by which God lets us in on who He is.

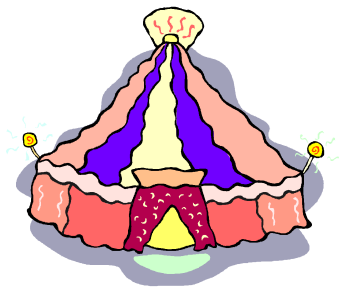


You believed in Jesus and now Jesus lives in you along with the Holy Spirit! Wow you have the power of God living in you. Use it! This is the same power that raised Jesus from the dead after He died on the cross! So when you learn His Word every day and you believe it by faith, you start thinking and acting like Jesus and become more and more like him every day. Why? Because you have faith in who and what Jesus is and then Jesus is at home in your heart...He LOVES that! He can now work with you.

And when you have faith, the qualities of the object (Jesus) of your faith go to work to benefit you. God's power flows through you and you have a wonderful faith relationship with Jesus.

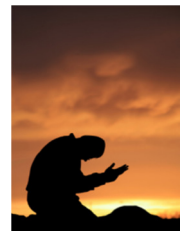
So again look at the faith of Abraham as it is recorded in our New Testament in our Bibles:

Heb 11:8-20 "By faith Abraham, when he was called (by God), 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. (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; (10) for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. (11) By faith even Sarah herself received ability to have a baby, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him (God) faithful who had promised. (12) Therefore there was born even of one man and him as good as dead (very old) at that, as many descendants AS THE STARS OF HEAVEN IN NUMBER, AND INNUMERABLE AS THE SAND WHICH IS BY THE SEASHORE. "



Heb11:17-19 "By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son; (18) it was he to whom it was said, 'IN ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS SHALL BE CALLED.' (19) He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type (of Jesus)."

Rom 4:18-20 "In hope against hope he (Abraham) believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, 'SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE.' (19) Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb; (20) yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God..."



For Abraham it was simple. He never questioned God or God's ability to carry out what He had promised. Abraham trusted fully in the perfect character and nature of God. What God had promised, He could and would carry out. This was amazing because Abraham at this time was pretty much all by himself. The world of men in the time he lived had abandoned God. They had made idols of wood and stone and had fallen into doing really bad things.

So it was all on Abraham and Abraham kept walking in his faith in God and God revealed Himself to Abraham step by step. Faith in God cannot be understood except by men and women of faith...believers... people who want to know God. And those who have it cannot really be understood except by others who also have faith.

These Old Testament believers knew that they would receive their promises in the future.

Heb 11:13 "All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth."

So really when you live by faith sooner or later you will feel like a stranger here on this earth...like you don't belong here and you don't! Time passes, and you notice that people withdraw from you. It's because they insist on living by sight and by the world's standards and you are a threat to that way of life. Abraham saw this happen with Lot, his nephew, and Ishmael his son.

In spirit of being one of the few that had faith, Abraham kept making progress in the knowledge of His God, to the point where one day he would offer his only son Isaac on an altar but God intervened and stopped Abraham from sacrificing Isaac. Then God provided the animal sacrifice for Abraham. It was a ram that was caught in the bushes. So God spared that through Isaac God would fulfill His promise to make Abraham the father of many nations.



GOD ALWAYS COMES THROUGH FOR THOSE WHO HAVE FAITH IN HIM AND OBEY HIM.

Close in prayer

Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson on 4-11/2012
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