

WALK BY FAITH



Facing the Test of Submission and Obedience

Sunday, September 1, 2024

Hebrews 11:7-12

In the Christian faith, submission and obedience are closely connected disciplines. Submission is the act of willingly placing oneself under the authority of God and acknowledging His sovereignty over one's life. By submitting to God and obeying His commands, believers can live a life that is in alignment with His will and experience the blessings and fulfillment that come from following Him.

Key Point: True faith is demonstrated through submission and obedience to God, even when facing difficult tests and challenges.

Noah, Abraham and Sarah trusted God when the circumstances didn't make sense!

I. Noah

Submitted to God in obedience even when the circumstances seemed unlikely and challenging.

Hebrews 11:7

By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

Through his obedience, Noah demonstrated his trust in God's promises and his willingness to follow God's instructions even when it didn't make sense.

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II. Abraham

Submitted to God in obedience even when he did not know where he was going.

Hebrews 11:8

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

- Abraham was called to leave his homeland and journey to a new land that God would show him, trusting in God's guidance and provision.

Pastor Darryl Craft speaking about Abraham...

Abraham is an example of one whose life was one consecutive test after another. Jewish tradition says that Abraham was tested by God on ten different occasions. GOD USED TESTS OF SUBMISSION TO TEACH ABRAHAM HOW TO LIVE BY FAITH. Beginning in Genesis 12 with God's call on his life, until we read in Genesis 25:8 "Abraham breathed his last and died in a ripe old age, an old man and satisfied with life;" Abraham's faith grew with each test. In Hebrews 11, Abraham is the father of all of the faithful. He stands throughout time as one who lived a life pleasing to God because he lived by faith.

Hebrews 11:9-10

By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

- Despite not knowing the destination, Abraham obeyed God and lived as a foreigner in the promised land, looking forward to the heavenly city that God had prepared for him.

III. Sarah

Submitted to God in obedience even while she waited for God to deliver on His promise.

Hebrews 11:11-12

By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

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Sarah faced the test of waiting for a child in her old age, struggling with doubt and disbelief before eventually conceiving Isaac.

Through her faith and obedience, Sarah bore witness to God's faithfulness and fulfilled His promise of offspring as numerous as the stars.

Application

- Submit to God in obedience even when the circumstances you are facing are challenging and seem impossible.
- Submit to God in obedience even when the path is uncertain or the fulfillment of His promises seems distant.
- Submit to God in obedience even when they don't make sense from a human perspective.

"If you love me, keep my commands" (John 14:15).

- This shows that obedience is the way to demonstrate our love and commitment to God.