
Words of Truth

Hebrews 11:8-10

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“By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God” (Hebrews 11:8-10).

The life of Abraham [Abram] is recorded from Genesis 11:26-25:10. Abraham’s life was not always simple nor were his decisions always right. Those things are not the subjects of the context we are studying. The event from which the text above begins is as follows: *“Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran” (Genesis 12:1-4).*

There is plenty in the Scriptures concerning Abraham. The faith of Abraham was used as a teaching tool in multiple ways. For one example, Abraham’s faith was used in an attempt to teach the Jews in Rome out of their thinking about the works of the Law of Moses. Notice: *“Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin. Cometh this blessedness then upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness. How was it then reckoned? when he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision. And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also: And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised. For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect: Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression. Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith*

of Abraham; who is the father of us all, (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification” (Romans 4:8-25).

What we can see about Abraham is how that he believed what God said and then obeyed it. He did not debate with God. He did not stagger at the promises. Since he obeyed the instructions of our Lord, all the earth is blessed through his seed (Genesis 22:18; cf. Galatians 3:6-29). Abraham was a stranger in the land he was sent into (Genesis 23:1-4). The same was true for Isaac and Jacob (Genesis 26:1-5, Genesis 33:1-20, and Genesis 37:1). We should be able to relate to that feeling. We, who are in Christ, are citizens of Heaven (Philippians 3:20). Our mount Zion is spiritual (Hebrews 12:22-23). In this world, we are strangers and pilgrims (I Peter 2:11). We are sojourners (I Peter 1:17). We should all realize that there is nothing to cling to in this present world (I John 2:15-17). Like Abraham, for us to get our inheritance we need to hear and obey (Hebrews 5:8-9).

The motivation of Abraham was his looking for a city that obviously was not to be found among men. Later in this Hebrew letter we find this statement: *“For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come”* (Hebrews 13:14). Jesus told the Apostles this: *“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also”* (John 14:1-3). Therefore, in a similar manner likened to Abraham, we are headed toward a home that we cannot see. We will get there as he did, by obeying the voice of our Lord (Revelation 22:14).

The advantage that we have over Abraham is that we have more information about our inheritance than he did his. For one, what we know was a mystery to those of old (I Peter 1:1-12). Secondly, we know that we will inherit eternal life (Titus 1:1-2, James 1:12, and I John 2:25). While we walk by faith not seeing what Heaven is (cf. II Corinthians 5:7), we are not entirely without direction or knowledge. We know the way (John 14:6). We know the choice comes down to two paths (Matthew 7:13-23). We have the advantage of the full revelation of God (II Timothy 3:15-17). Seeing these things are so, go by faith to our eternal home.