

Hebrews 11:8-22

REVIEW...

- The author showed us Jesus is BETTER than EVERYONE and EVERYTHING...
 - SEEING Jesus is BETTER - We were encouraged to come BOLDLY to God - through Jesus...
 - Because if we continue in WILLFUL sin after we are saved - there is no more sacrifice...
 - But we are NOT those who fall back into WILLFUL sin...
 - We are those who walk by FAITH - pleasing God - to the saving of our soul!
- Hall of FAITH...
 - FAITH - is the SUBSTANCE of things hoped for - the foundation of our FAITH is HOPE in Jesus...
 - EVIDENCE of things NOT seen - the EVIDENCE of creation - **Psalms 19:1**
 - EVIDENCE of the ELDERS - the HALL of FAITH - a list of NINETEEN OT believers...
 - EXAMPLES that PROVE to us what it means to WALK by FAITH!
- FAITH like...
 - FAITH like Abel - to offer a BETTER sacrifice to God out of a PURE heart...
 - FAITH like Enoch - to PLEASE God - by believing He rewards those who diligently seek Him...
 - FAITH like Noah - to not care what the world says - but act and do what God tells us to!

EXAMPLES OF FAITH... (5 POINTS)

- 1ST - THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM... vs. 8-10 / 13-19
 - The FATHER of FAITH...
 - Abraham was the FIRST Hebrew - he was the FATHER of the Jewish people...
 - We know Abraham was SAVED by FAITH - **Genesis 15:6**
 - But because Abraham also WALKED by FAITH - he became the FATHER of FAITH...
 - **Galatians 3:7** - "Those who are of FAITH are sons of Abraham."
 - That makes him the MOST important example of what it means to OBEY by FAITH...
 - Which is why the Author dedicates more verses to Abraham - than to ANY other person!
 - 1ST - OBEY when CALLED... vs. 8
 - By faith Abraham OBEYED...
 - OBEYED - from the root word [ἀκούω] meaning to HEAR...
 - Abraham was able to OBEY by FAITH - because he LISTENED to the WORD of God!
 - How can a child OBEY their FATHER - if they do not LISTEN to what he says!
 - One of the great questions people have in life - is what God WANTS me to DO...
 - We know the ONLY way to have a fulfilling life - is by OBEYING God...
 - We spend a LOT of time doing Bible studies - all throughout the week...
 - The reason is because the ONLY way to be OBEDIENT to the Lord...
 - Is through HEARING the WORD of our FATHER!
 - **Romans 10:17** - "FAITH comes by HEARING, and HEARING by the word of God."
 - When he was CALLED to the place which he would receive as an inheritance...
 - The CALL - leave your country - your family - your Father - **Genesis 12:1**
 - We are given additional information about the CALL by Steven - **Acts 7:2-3**
 - Abram was FIRST called by God in the Ur of the Chaldean - to leave his FAMILY...
 - He departed - but went with his FAMILY (Terah / Lot) ...
 - The result was his father TOOK him to Haran - rather than Canaan - **Genesis 11:31**
 - After the death of his Father Terah - God called Abram AGAIN - **Genesis 12:4**
 - And he departs again - but STILL brings Lot with him - a decision he will regret!
 - Abram was NOT perfect - he did obey - but reluctantly!

- If we will just step out in FAITH – even imperfectly OBEYING...
- God is faithful to do things in our lives that are beyond our wildest imaginations!
- He went out - NOT knowing where he was going...
 - God did not give very detailed directions to Abram – go to a place He would show him...
 - **Psalms 119:105** – “Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.”
 - God gives us just enough information to keep dependent on Him
 - If God gave me BIG PICTURE – I would thank Him – rely on myself to fulfill it...
 - But if He ONLY gives me the next step – I come to Him DAILY – step by step!
 - **II Corinthians 5:7** – “For we walk by FAITH, not by sight.”
- o 2nd - OBEY by DWELLING... vs. 9
 - By faith he DWELT in the land of promise as in a foreign country - DWELLING in tents...
 - DWELT [sojourn] 2x NT – to live next to – emphasizing the idea of not SETTLING in...
 - God PROMISED to give the land of Canaan to Abraham – but he lived there like a STRANGER...
 - He never built a PERMEANT house – he and his descendants lived in TENTS!
 - By FAITH we understand this is NOT our HOME – we are only here for a short stay...
 - Far too often we get way too attached to things in this life and FORGET...
 - We are not HOME yet – our HOME is a place we have yet to see – our home is HEAVEN...
 - We need to remember to keep a light touch on things here – just living in TENTS!
- o 3rd – OBEY in PATIENCE... vs. 10
 - [By FAITH] - WAITED for the city which has foundations - whose builder and maker is God...
 - WAITED [imperfect] – he CONTINUALLY waited for a BETTER home...
 - Abraham NEVER did INHERIT the Promised Land – that would come 400 years later...
 - His focus was NOT on this life – he was NOT looking for an earthly reward for his FAITH!
 - The REWARD for our FAITH does NOT come in this life – it comes in HEAVEN...
 - That is where we have a CITY waiting for us – worth WAITING for – **Revelation 21:2**
- o 4th – OBEY in LIFE... vs. 13-16
 - These all DIED in faith - NOT having received the PROMISES... vs. 13
 - PROMISES – NOT talking about the Promised Land – it is talking about HEAVEN...
 - They did SEE [to know] the PROMISES – BUT they were VERY far away [end of their life]
 - Having SEEN them – they were PERSUADED [passive] by them...
 - To EMBRACE and CONFESS – they were STRANGERS and PILGRIMS on earth!
 - STRANGER – a foreigner – someone from ANOTHER country...
 - PILGRIM – to live among strangers – not your HOME – **I Peter 2:11**
 - Those who say such things DECLARE PLAINLY that they seek [their HOME] ... vs. 14
 - DECLARE PLAINLY – [ἐμφανίζω] – where we get the word EMPHASIZE...
 - When we EMBRACE and CONFESS - we are STRANGERS and PILGRIMS...
 - We EMPHASIZE that we do NOT belong to this earth – our HOME is with God!
 - If they had REMEMBERED where they had come out – they could have returned... vs. 15
 - REMEMBERED [imperfect] – if they have focused on what they GAVE up...
 - It could have led them to GO BACK to the world – walk away from HEAVEN!
 - But now they DESIRE a better - heavenly country... vs. 16
 - Therefore God is NOT ashamed to be called their God - He prepared [aorist] a city for them!
 - DESIRE [present] – 3x in NT – CONTINUALLY stretching out in order to reach something...
 - They were CONTINUALLY reaching by FAITH for what they could NOT see – HEAVEN...
 - Which had TWO results - God was PROUD [not ashamed] of them!
 - AND even though they could NOT see HEAVEN – God had ALREADY prepared it for them!
 - The PROMISE of Heaven – for most of us – is still VERY far away...
 - And if we want – we can focus on what we can SEE in this LIFE – live in the moment...

- But when OBEY – LIVING by FAITH in what we CANNOT see – until the day we DIE...
- We will find a God who is PROUD to call us His own...
- A God who has prepared a MANSION – for us to live in with Him FOREVER – **John 14:2**
- 5th – OBEY in TESTS... vs. 17-19
 - By faith Abraham - when he was TESTED - offered up Isaac...
 - TESTED – [πειράζω] 38x in NT - can alternately be translated as TRIALS...
 - WALKING by FAITH – means we are going to go through TRIALS!
 - **James 1:2** – “Count it all joy WHEN you fall into various TRIALS [same root].”
 - Why would God TEST us – why would He bring TRIALS into our lives!
 - If you go to the Market and want to buy some mangos – you want good ones...
 - Problem: how to know which are best - the outside might look good – but...
 - But unless you TEST the fruit you do not know what it is like on the inside!
 - We do not get to really know who someone is when life is easy...
 - The real test of character is how they act when life falls apart...
 - God uses TRIALS in life to TEST us – let us see what we are made of...
 - God already knows - but He wants US to see what is in OUR hearts!
 - [Abraham] offered up his only begotten son...
 - Of whom it was said - in Isaac your seed shall be called – **Genesis 21:12**
 - There was NOTHING more important in life to Abraham – than Isaac...
 - Yet God asked him to give up what he held MOST dear – valued more than anything!
 - Why was He willing to SACRIFICE Isaac – he believed God would RESURRECT him!
 - Abraham [reasoned] if Isaac died - God was able to bring him back to life again... [NLT]
 - And in a sense he did – for [יְהוָה יִרְאֶה] – provided Himself as a sacrifice instead of Isaac!
 - James uses THIS as an example to show us how FAITH WORKS - **James 2:20-24**
 - Abraham was justified / saved by WORKS when he offered Isaac his son...
 - Not by WORKS alone – but by FAITH working together with his WORKS!
 - We know a fruit tree is alive – if there is fruit on its branches...
 - In the same way we know there is TRUE FAITH in Jesus – if there is FRUIT...
 - The FRUIT / WORKS are the proof that our FAITH is TRUE!
 - WHEN the FAITH of ABRAHAM produced good WORKS...
 - Abraham was counted as RIGHTEOUS when he was around 85 - **Genesis 15:6**
 - But when Abraham offered Isaac – he was between 115-137...
 - That means there was up to 50 years before the FRUIT was seen!
 - If we plant an apple seed – we do not expect to harvest apples a week later!
 - FRUIT takes time to grow and develop – but a healthy tree will ALWAYS bear FRUIT!
 - If we have TRUE FAITH in Jesus – there WILL BE good FRUIT coming from our lives!
 - But not all FRUIT is immediate - it might take years for the FRUIT to come out...
 - That should be VERY encouraging – if we WALK in FAITH – FRUIT eventually comes!
- 2ND – SARAH WAS STRENGTHENED BY FAITH... vs. 11-12
 - 1st – Sarah was OLD... vs. 11
 - By faith Sarah received STRENGTH to conceive - when she was past the age...
 - Because she JUDGED Him faithful who had PROMISED!
 - God promised Abraham and Sarah would have a son – **Genesis 15:4-5**
 - But God waited UNTIL Abraham was 100 and Sarah was 90 – until it was IMPOSSIBLE!
 - God then came to Abraham – I am Almighty God - El Shaddai – **Genesis 17:1**
 - God confirmed a PROMISE – that was IMPOSSIBLE – except for Him!
 - When Sarah heard the PROMISE – she laughed [Isaac] – **Genesis 18:12**
 - But she then JUDGED – and realized the one who made the PROMISE – was FAITHFUL!

- There is no circumstance too difficult – or problem too overwhelming for God...
- He turns sinners into saints – the weak into the mighty – the lowly into the great...
- The only thing that limits God – is us JUDGING Him who PROMISED – FAITHFUL!
- o 2nd – Abraham was OLDER... vs. 12
 - Therefore from one man - and him as good as DEAD- were born as many...
 - God gave TWO descriptions of how MANY children Abraham would have!
 - As many as the STARS [10 billion – trillion] - or the SAND on the seashore – **Genesis 22:17**
 - There are an estimated 8 BILLION grains of sand per m² - 700 BILLION m² of sand on earth!
 - That number is 56 – with 21 ZEROS after it – 5.6 sextillion!
 - Perhaps the point being – ENUMERABLE – way too MANY to count!
 - Meaning EL Shaddai did not just do the impossible – He went WAY beyond!
 - Which is ALWAYS the result of those who WALK in FAITH...
 - God does not just give us the STRENGTH to do the IMPOSSIBLE...
 - Through His STRENGTH we find we are able to do things beyond IMAGINATION!
 - **Ephesians 3:20** – “Now to Him who is able to do EXCEEDINGLY ABUNDANTLY above all that we ASK or THINK, according to the POWER [STRENGTH] that works in us.”
- 3RD – ISAAC PROPHESED BY FAITH... vs. 20
 - o 1st – Isaac made MISTAKES...
 - Isaac lived longer than the others [Abraham / Jacob] – he died at 180 – **Genesis 35:28**
 - Yet the shortest number of chapters are dedicated to his life – only THREE!
 - The reason is because for most of his life – he did NOT walk by FAITH...
 - When the men of the city of GERAR began to ask about his wife Rebekah...
 - He LIED – and said she is my SISTER [same as Abraham] – **Genesis 26:7**
 - o 2nd – Isaac PROPHESED...
 - By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come...
 - When Isaac was OLD – and could NOT see – **Genesis 27:1**
 - He PROPHESED over his TWO twin sons – Esau and Jacob!
 - Although Jacob TRICKED his father into thinking he was Esau – to get the blessing...
 - He dressed up like his older brother – HAIRY – to fool their father...
 - When Esau came begging for ANY blessing – Isaac PROPHESED – **Genesis 27:39-40**
 - Interesting – a man who walked by SIGHT – lost the ability to SEE...
 - And ONLY then – was he able to SEE – what would happen to his TWO sons!
 - When we think we can SEE – what to do in life – where we should go...
 - Like Isaac – we will walk around BLIND – and not do much worth writing about...
 - But when we understand we are BLIND – that is when we look to the Lord who can see...
 - Only then will we KNOW what it will happen – what God desires for us to do!
 - **John 9:39** – “For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do NOT see may see, and that those who see may be made BLIND.”
- 4TH – JACOB BLESSED BY FAITH... vs. 21
 - o 1st – Jacob made MISTAKES...
 - Isaac made MISTAKES – but it is hard to find something Jacob did right!
 - He STOLE the birthright – CHEATED his uncle Laban – WRESTLED with God!
 - Everywhere Jacob went – he FOUGHT – against everyone!
 - Yet God used all these things to CHANGE Jacob – to ISRAEL [governed by God]
 - o 2nd – Jacob BLESSED...
 - By faith Jacob - when he was dying - blessed each of the sons of Joseph...
 - Of all the things recorded in Genesis – Jacob blessing his GRANDKIDS was his act of FAITH...
 - Jacob was OLD – and like his Isaac before him – he was BLIND – **Genesis 48:10**

- Joseph gave Manasseh to the right hand of Israel – and Ephraim to his left hand...
- The purpose was the greater blessing (*right*) went to the oldest son – Manasseh...
- BUT - Israel crossed his hands – blessing Ephraim with his right / Manasseh his left...
- It was not a mistake – he was guiding his hands KNOWINGLY – it was intentional...
- KNOWINGLY – the word in Hebrew suggests having special insight or knowledge...
- Manasseh would become great tribe - but Ephraim would be even greater!
- [Then he] worshiped - leaning on the top of his staff [only mentioned here]!
 - Old – BLIND - Israel could not SEE with his eyes – but SAW more clearly than anyone else...
 - He was NOT bound to follow the WISDOM of this world...
 - By FAITH he could see what the world missed – the BLESSINGS of God!
 - Living for Jesus is almost always the exact opposite of what the world says...
 - The world says to seek riches – the Bible says to be content – **Hebrews 13:5**
 - The world says to focus on yourself – the Bible says to die to ourselves – **Luke 9:23**
 - The word says to be strong – the Bible says we need to be weak – **II Corinthians 12:9**
 - It can be hard to accept – it is so DIFFERENT from everything we were taught...
 - But when we WALK by FAITH – we CLEARLY see what the world misses...
 - The BLESSED - ABUNDANT life - is found by LIVING for Jesus – **John 10:10**
- 5TH – JOSEPH ENCOURAGED BY FAITH... VS. 22
 - 1ST – Instructions for bones...
 - By faith Joseph - when he was dying - made mention of the departure of the children of Israel...
 - And gave instructions concerning his bones!
 - On his deathbed he made his family make a promise...
 - This is likely NOT his brothers – as they were almost all older and had likely passed...
 - God will surely visit you and BRING you out of THIS land – the PROMISED land...
 - WHEN God brings you out– take my BONES with you – bury me in the land!
 - God did redeem His people – and bring them to the Promised Land...
 - So Joseph died – was embalmed – and his coffin was put in Egypt!
 - When Israel left 400 years later - they took the bones of Joseph – **Exodus 13:19**
 - When they entered the Promised Land - they buried him – **Joshua 24:32**
 - 2ND – Greatest ACT of Faith...
 - Joseph was a ruler / a king – who saved the lives of thousands from famine...
 - He was a Godly brother / father / grandfather / he was even a great grandfather...
 - Yet of all the things Joseph did – the one was recorded in the Hall of Faith...
 - Was his request to take his bones and bury them in the Promised Land!
 - Encouragement...
 - Joseph could have had them bury his body right then – like they did for Jacob...
 - But he wanted to leave a legacy – something to ENCOURAGE future generations...
 - God WOULD be faithful to His Word and bring Israel out of Egypt – **Genesis 46:4**
 - Therefore the greatest act of Faith of Joseph was not something HE did...
 - It was believing – and showing others – God would be faithful to do what He says!
 - If we want to live WALK by FAITH – it is NOT about what we do for the Lord!
 - It is about believing what God says He wants to do for us!
 - Living a life that points others to the Word of the Lord – to the promises of Jesus!