

FACE FAITH FORWARD (Hebrews 11:8-16)

[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. [9] 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. [10] For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. [11] By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. [12] 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. [13] These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. [14] For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. [15] If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. [16] But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

1. God has a calling for all of His people that must be lived out obediently by FAITH (8).
2. God leads us to fulfill our calling by FAITH and not by sight (8).
3. God's promises to us can be trusted as we obey His calling (9).
4. FAITH is a forward looking focus on the Father, through the Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit (10).
5. A vision for the "City of God" will enable us to fulfill God's calling for our lives in the cities of men (10).
6. FAITH in God opens the door for us to receive power from God to do what we could never do on our own (11-12).
7. FAITH in God can cause things that are dead to bring forth life in ways that the human mind can't fully comprehend (11-12).
8. FAITHful people will not see the complete fruit of their obedience this side of eternity (13).
9. FAITHful people know that they are strangers and exiles (refugees) on this earth, no matter what country they live in (13-16).
10. God has prepared a perfect eternal city for His faithful to live in forever with Him (16).
11. FAITH is the root of fruit.

[6] ...without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. [Heb 11:6 ESV]

[1] ...faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. [2] For by it the people of old received their commendation. [3] By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. [Heb 11:1-3 ESV]
[7] ...we walk by faith, not by sight. [2 Cor 5:7 ESV]

[31] Terah took Abram his son and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram's wife, and they went forth together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan, but when they came to Haran, they settled there. [32] The days of Terah were 205 years, and Terah died in Haran.

[1] Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." [4] So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. [Gen 11:31-12:4 ESV]

[18] ...the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates... [Gen 15:18 ESV]

[1] The LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did to Sarah as he had promised. [2] And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him. [3] Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac. [4] And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. [5] Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. [6] And Sarah said, "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me." [7] And she said, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age." [Gen 21:1-7 ESV]

[5] For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, [6] as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening. [1Pe 3:5-6 ESV]

[11] Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. [1Pet 2:11 ESV]