

## Hebrews 11 Abraham—The Imperfect Man of Faith

March 10, 2024

Pastor Don Talley

- 1) In Hebrew, the name Isaac means "**LAUGHTER**."
- 2) ...someone has said, "It's a **TRIAL** when it comes from the Lord to help you grow spiritually—it's a **TEMPTATION** when it comes from Satan to bring you down—to bring you harm."
- 3) That is true for those of us who are in Christ too ... God doesn't **RECOGNIZE** or even remember our deeds of the flesh—He only recognize our deeds of faith!"
- 4) The story of Abraham **not** only tests his faith—tests his level of obedience—but **REVEALS** a shadow of God's redemptive plan for mankind!
- 5) "Where God Guides—God **PROVIDES!**"
- 6) Abraham has shown us that it's not perfect faith that matters; but putting **IMPERFECT** faith in the **PERFECT** place.

## Hebrews 11 Abraham—The Imperfect Man of Faith

March 10, 2024

Pastor Don Talley

Genesis 21:6; 16:2-4    Romans 4:3    Hebrews 4:16  
1 Corinthians 10:13    John 3:16    Matthew 26:52  
Romans 8:28 (NASB)

- 1) In Hebrew, the name Isaac means "\_\_\_\_\_."
- 2) ...someone has said, "It's a \_\_\_\_\_ when it comes from the Lord to help you grow spiritually—it's a \_\_\_\_\_ when it comes from Satan to bring you down—to bring you harm."
- 3) That is true for those of us who are in Christ too ... God doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ or even remember our deeds of the flesh—He only recognize our deeds of faith!"
- 4) The story of Abraham **not** only tests his faith—tests his level of obedience—but \_\_\_\_\_ a shadow of God's redemptive plan for mankind!
- 5) "Where God Guides—God \_\_\_\_\_!"
- 6) Abraham has shown us that it's not perfect faith that matters; but putting \_\_\_\_\_ faith in the \_\_\_\_\_ place.

Notice *when* the people worshipped in this story. How might you follow their example in your own life?

## GET PRACTICAL

- 7) If there was anything in Abraham's life that might have become an idol, it would have been Isaac - the son of promise, the son of his wife, the son of his old age. What about you? What thing(s) are most possible to become an idol in your life? (An idol is anyone or anything that you're tempted to love as much as, or more than, God. Consider the things that you think about, spend money on, or how you spend your time)

What can you do to help prevent God's blessings from becoming idols in your life? How can you love God first and most over all things? (*Please do not stab anyone/anything on an altar of sacrifice, unless God gives you VERY clear commands*)

- 8) What do you most need to remember from this week's message and/or homework?

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- ▶
- ▶
- ▶

## Life Group Homework For the week of March 10, 2024

**\*\*\*This is the last week of Life Group for the "winter" quarter. The spring quarter of Life Group is 9 weeks long and will begin on March 31 (Easter Sunday) and end June 1. *Please let your life group leader know if you plan to continue in the same group, try a different group, or take a break.***

## MY STORY

- 1) As Abraham was leaving the house to go sacrifice Isaac, what do you think he might have told his wife, Sarah? (Feel free to have fun with this one!)

## QUICK REVIEW

- 2) Looking back at Hebrews 11:17-19 and your notes from this Sunday's message, what stood out to you or confused you?

## DIGGING DEEPER

- 3) This week we read how God commanded Abraham to sacrifice his son, Isaac. Why do you think God gives us commands *without* giving us all the details or answers ahead of time?
- 4) Read the following passages about God's goodness.  
**Psalm 107:1** - "Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever."  
**James 1:17** - "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning."

**1 John 4:16** - *"And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him."*

Why do you think it is important to trust that God is both good and loving?

If you doubted God's goodness or love, how would that change your relationship with God?

5) What do you think the following quote means?

*The great difficulty spiritually is to concentrate on God, and it is His blessings that make it difficult. Troubles nearly always make us look to God; His blessings are apt to make us look elsewhere. - Oswald Chambers, My Utmost for His Highest*

6) While King Jehoshaphat was king of Judah, three enemy nations joined forces to come and attack them. Read the end of Jehoshaphat's prayer and the outcome below.

**2 Chronicles 20:12-13,15-24** - *"[12] 'O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You.' [13] Now all Judah, with their little ones, their wives, and their children, stood before the LORD. [Then the LORD responds through a prophet...] [15] And he said, 'Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the LORD to you: 'Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's. [16] 'Tomorrow go down against them. They will*

*surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel. [17] 'You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the LORD is with you." [18] And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem bowed before the LORD, worshiping the LORD. [19] Then the Levites of the children of the Kohathites and of the children of the Korahites stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with voices loud and high. [20] So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper." [21] And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: "Praise the LORD, For His mercy endures forever." [22] Now when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated. [23] For the people of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir to utterly kill and destroy them. And when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another. [24] So when Judah came to a place overlooking the wilderness, they looked toward the multitude; and there were their dead bodies, fallen on the earth. No one had escaped."*

What stands out to you or confuses you from this story?

Why do you think God commanded them to leave their safe, fortified city to see the salvation of God? What was God's purpose?