

Sovereign Grace Church

***“Abraham”* outline**

May 14, 2017

Hebrews 11: 8-10

Abraham was going about his business in the land of Ur when God spoke to him and told him to leave his homeland and family and to proceed on to a land unknown where he would become a mighty nation and a blessing to all the families of the earth. Abraham believed God and God counted it as righteousness. But Abraham did not receive this promise immediately but only through much testing and many trials. There were times when Abraham's faith faltered but he always came back, adjusted his life, and pursued the course set for him by God.

Even though the promise stipulated that Abraham would eventually, through his descendents, settle permanently in Canaan....the account in Hebrews informs us that Abraham's vision was set on something quite a bit deeper....a city built by God Himself. We will begin our consideration of Abraham in looking at verses 8-10 and we will see that God's call often includes promises for which one must wait a very long time indeed but which fulfillment is quite beyond our ability to comprehend. Such promises are of things unseen and sometimes not understood and so can only be apprehended by faith.

Abraham's Faith is expressed in:

1. Abraham's heeding God's special call. v. 8

- **Abraham's history**
- **His Call to Leave Gen. 12: 1; Matt. 10:37**
- **His Call to Receive Gen. 12: 2-3; Jms 1: 2-4**

2. Abraham's patience with God's timing. v. 9

- **Promised, but not Possessing**
- **Strangers in their own land Jn. 18: 36; Matt. 13: 34-35**

- **Fellow inheritors Gen. 15: 15-16; II Peter 3: 9**
- **Importance of Humility Lk 14: 8-11; I Pet. 5: 5-7**

3. Abraham's anticipation of a far grander fulfillment. v. 10

- **A City w/ Foundations built by God
Psm 11: 3; Rev. 21: 9-11a, 22 – 22: 5, 14**

Concluding Scriptures: Col. 3: 14; Eph. 2: 8; I Cor. 15: 10; Eph. 2: 10

Questions for Conversation and Edification

- 1. For God to command a follower to simply leave his established home (Abraham was not a single teenager looking for adventure!) on His word alone...without disclosing the destination seems to be asking quite a bit. But in light of God's commands to Abraham in the future...was it? How do you think you would respond if the Lord told you to do something similar? How would you convince your spouse to follow along? How do you think Sarah responded to her husbands report of God's command? Do you think she may have had doubts? How does her response reflect on her faith?**
- 2. How are grace, faith and obedience connected? What is faith without obedience? What is obedience without faith? Why are both distinct but necessary? How does the account of Abraham and the others in Hebrews 11 indicate that the value of faith goes far beyond our justification to include the Christian life?**
- 3. How did Abraham's dwelling in the land of promise as a stranger manifest his faith? How did it manifest his patience? Do you think the Canaanites would have allowed him to stay if they had known about this promise? Why didn't Abraham try to "take over" the land? How did he influence them apart from an armed conflict?**
- 4. What does it mean for you to live in Christ's kingdom now while awaiting its fuller & glorious manifestation later? How does living in Christ's kingdom influence those who are not so living? How is grace manifest in living in His kingdom?**
- 5. What lessons did you learn from Abraham that might apply to your own condition now?**