

The background of the slide is a composite image. The upper portion shows a dark night sky filled with stars, with the bright, blueish-white band of the Milky Way galaxy stretching across the upper right. Below the sky, a dark, rugged mountain range is visible, with some peaks appearing to have snow or light-colored rock. The overall tone is dark and atmospheric.

HEBREWS

What Faith looks like: Abraham (and his son, grandson and great-grandson)

Sept. 18, 2016

Abraham most vividly illustrates what the faith looks like in which God delights.

- **Abraham had faith.**

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 - **11:4-7 – Abel, Enoch, Noah**

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- **11:8-22**

Hebrew 11:8-22

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.

Hebrews 11:8-22

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.

Hebrews 11:8-22

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. ¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, ¹⁸ of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.”

Hebrews 11:8-22

¹⁹ He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. ²⁰ By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. ²¹ By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. ²² By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.

- **Abraham had faith.**

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- **Abraham's faith was grounded in the assurance of God's promise:
THE BEST IS YET TO COME.**

Hebrews 11:8-16

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Hebrews 11:1

¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,
the conviction of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:6

⁶ And 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.

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 - God asked Abraham to move from home. He responded in faith. He moved.
 - **God asked Abraham to kill his promised son. He responded in faith. He offered his son.**

Hebrews 11:17-19

¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, ¹⁸ of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” ¹⁹ He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

The faith challenge:

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- Emotionally impossible



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- **Contradiction of God's character**

The faith challenge:

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- Contradiction of God's character
- **Destruction of God's promises**

4 promises to Abraham

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Abraham's faith (believing the best was yet to come) empowered him to obey an outrageous, potentially promise ending command.

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- Abraham displayed most vividly what faith looks like.
- **Abraham's faith was passed on to his son, grandson, and great-grandson.**

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- They were convinced God keeps His promises. (THE BEST IS YET TO COME)
- God did not fulfill His promises quickly. (THE BEST DID NOT COME RIGHT AWAY)
- **God fulfilled all His promises. (THE BEST WAS EVENTUALLY ENJOYED BY ALL)**

Genuine faith empowers whole hearted,
joyful obedience in all circumstances.

God's promises to us:

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God's promises to us:

- Through faith in Jesus we become children of God. (Heb. 2:14-18)
- As children of God, we will face persecution and difficulty. (John 15:20)
- God uses all circumstances for our good. (Romans 8:28)
- **We will be with God forever...the best is yet to come. (Heb. 11:16)**

Takeaways:

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- **Reach out to someone you know who is facing the second promise.**