

November 2, 2008

“Faith To Change”

*“Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don’t try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God’s voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he’s the one who will keep you on track.” (Proverbs 3:5-6, The Message)*

I. By faith you step out.

*“It was by faith that Abraham, obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as an inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going.” (Hebrews 11:8)*

- A. Abraham was 75 years old.
- B. Don’t let the fear of the unknown keep you from trusting God to do something great.
- C. What I learn from Abraham.
  - 1. You look at the first step, and not the whole journey.
  - 2. You look at God, and not yourself.
  - 3. You look at the blessing, and not the struggles.

II. By faith you stay.

*“But even when he reached the land God promised him, he lived there by faith, he was a foreigner living in a tent. And so did Isaac and Jacob, to whom God had given the same promise. Abraham did this because he was confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundation, a city designed and built by God.” (Hebrews 11:9-10)*

- A. It’s one thing to take the first step; it’s another to stay the course.
- B. Abraham moved and discovered it was not all milk and honey.
  - 1. Famine was there – there were not enough resources.
  - 2. People were in the land – too many obstacles.
  - 3. Abraham had to live like a foreigner in faith.
- C. What we learn from Abraham.
  - 1. He built his present on the foundation of the future.

*“Abraham did this because he was confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundations, a city that was designed and built by God.”*

III. By faith you succeed.

*“It was by faith that Sarah together with Abraham was able to have a child, even though they were too old and Sarah was barren. Abraham believed that God would keep His promise and so a whole nation came from this one man, Abraham, who was too old to have any children, a nation with so many people that, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore, there is no way to count them.” (Hebrews 11:11-12)*

- A. Abraham kept the faith and found God’s promise to be true.
- B. Abraham’s plan for God.
  - 1. Eliezer was the “I will settle for less” way that he struggled.
  - 2. Ishmael was the “I will do it myself” struggle.
  - 3. Isaac – God’s plan was the “I choose to trust in God plan.

IV. By faith you sacrifice.

*“17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called,” 19 concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.” (Hebrews 11:17-19)*

The lesson:

God gives us successes so we can make them sacrifices.