

Sermon Series- **Fix your eyes on Jesus**

Sermon Title- **By Abraham**

Sermon- #27

Speaker- Pastor Mike Mercer

Date- Sunday, August 11th, 2024

Hebrews 11:8-19

“By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, **obeyed and went**, even though he did not know where he was going.

⁹ By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. ¹² And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

¹³ All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. ¹⁴ People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, ¹⁸ even though God had said to him, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.” ¹⁹ Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.”

Study Questions-

1. What is the relationship between faith in God and obedience to God? For example, the people in Hebrews chapter 11, like Abraham above, all “**did something**” regarding their faith. Why is that significant and what does that mean for your relationship with God?
2. Are you guys familiar with what God promised to Abraham? If not, let’s look at **Genesis 12:1-3**. In light of God’s promise to Abraham, why was it important for he and Sarah to have a kid (or kids)?
3. Verse 10 refers to a city whose architect and builder is God referencing, most likely, heaven. How often do you think of heaven and are you “looking forward” to being there someday?
4. When Isaac was born to Abraham & Sarah they were very old (Abraham 100 = Gen. 21:5 & Sarah was very old too). Why is this so significant (Sarah- “past childbearing age / Abraham- “as good as dead”)? What did God do here and what did he simply need from them?
5. God “testing” Abraham with the sacrificing of Isaac is deep and can be extremely confusing. Why do you think God tested Abraham in such a way?
6. What is something God is inviting you to do and how will it require faith for you to do it?