

BY FAITH WE CAN OVERCOME THE IMPOSSIBLE AS THEY DID

DATE: JULY 30,2023

SCRIPTURE: HEB 11:17-31

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Introduction: Abraham's belief was unhampered by the fact that he was almost a hundred years old; he was not weak in faith. He was strong in faith. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform" (Romans 4:18-21).

What is faith? Faith is a deep conviction that God's words are true and that God will perform all that He promises. Abraham simply believed that God would do what He said. Nothing is too hard for God. Nothing is impossible for God. That is an example for all of us today, that our faith should be strong in God.

BACKGROUND: Earlier examples of Abraham's faith

1 PROMISE FOR BLESSINGS

"Now the LORD had said to Abram, 'Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great. ...' So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him, and Lot went with him" (Genesis 12:1-2, 4)

2. PROMISE FOR AN HEIR

This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir." He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars — if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be"(Genesis 15:4-5)

3. PROMISE FOR LAND

...No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you... And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting

possession, and I will be their God”

I. IT'S ONLY A TEST (HEB 11:17-19)

Abraham's faith was tested again, in the most challenging way. Abraham must have believed that God had a very good reason for asking him to sacrifice Isaac, and that somehow Isaac would have to be raised from the dead to fulfill the promises God had made concerning him. Abraham's willingness to give up his son was a type of God the Father's willingness to give His only begotten Son (Christ) as a sacrifice. We who are of the faith of Abraham must also believe that God can resurrect the dead.

II. TESTAMENTS OF FAITH

- 1. ISAAC (VS 20) GEN 26:2-4**
- 2. JACOB (VS 21) GEN 46:2-4**
- 3. JOSEPH (VS22) GEN 45:7-8)**
- 4. MOSES (VS 23-29) EX 3:9-10**

III. AND THE WALLS CAME TUMBLING DOWN (VS 30-32)

5. RAHAB VS 30-31

A harlot's singular saving faith though not strong or perfect was commendable nonetheless. By trusting that these Hebrew's God could win she was able to save her whole family.

IV. SO MANY MORE WITNES

A Gideon: He boldly destroyed idols and was mightily used of God to defeat a much larger army of Midianites (Judges 6-7). Yet he was also a man who doubted God's word to him at first and repeatedly asked for confirmation.

B:BARAK He led the people of Israel in a dramatic victory over the Canaanites (Judges 4). Yet he hesitated and went forward only when Deborah encouraged him.

C. SAMSON: He was used mightily of the Lord to defeat the Philistines. Yet he never lived up to his potential, and had a tragic ending to his life after being enticed by Delilah (Judges 13-16).

D JEPHTAH

He was used of God to defeat the Ammonites. Yet Jephthah made a foolish vow and stubbornly kept it (Judges 11).

E. DAVID

The great king of Israel was a remarkable man of faith. Yet he also failed with Bathsheba and with his own children.

Conclusion: Each one of these were men of faith, yet had notable areas of failure in their life. Still, Hebrews 11 commends their faith and lists them in the "Hall of Faith." This shows that weak faith is better than unbelief, and you don't have to be perfect to make it into God's "Hall of Faith."

BUT WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE HIM: FOR HE THAT COMETH TO GOD MUST BELIEVE THAT HE IS AND THAT HE IS A REWARDER OF THEM THAT DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM