

I AM ABRAHAM Leaving a Legacy of Faith

The purpose of this series is to help us grow in our faith as we focus on how our life is changing the lives of others and the world around us.

Part One: FIVE FACTS ABOUT FAITH

From Hebrews Chapter Eleven - The faith chapter that tells us what faith is and about the "Hall of Faith" -- extraordinary people in the Bible that epitomize overcoming faith.

THE DEFINITION OF FAITH

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

FAITH = Pistis = Firm persuasion; conviction belief

SUBSTANCE = Hupostatis = To place under; platform; foundation

HOPED FOR = Elpizo = To put your hope in someone - specifically in this context God.

EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN = The conviction to act upon what is not visible.

2 Corinthians 5:7 - We walk by faith, not by sight.

FIVE FACTS THAT FUEL FAITH

#1 - Hebrews 11:3

By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

FACT #1 - FAITH BELIEVES THE WORD OF GOD IS THE PREEMINENT POWER IN THE UNIVERSE.

Genesis 1 - God spoke everything into existence.

John 1:1-3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

Matthew 24:35

Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

#2 - Hebrews 11:4

By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

FACT #2 - THE HIGHER THE PRIORITY GOD IS IN OUR LIVES THE GREATER OUR FAITH WILL NATURALLY FUNCTION

#3 - Hebrews 11:5-6

By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, “and was not found, because God had taken him”; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.⁶ But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

FACT #3 - FAITH CAN ONLY BE RELEASED TO THE DEGREE THAT WE BELIEVE THAT GOD IS INTIMATELY PRESENT AND ULTIMATELY GOOD

Genesis 5:24

And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

Hebrews 13:5-6

Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”⁶ So we may boldly say: “The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”

#4 - Hebrews 11:7

By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

FACT #4 - FAITH ACTS WITH CONFIDENCE THAT GOD KNOWS AND CONTROLS THE FUTURE AND WANTS TO GUIDE US TO SAFETY AND SUCCESS

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

#5 - Hebrews 11:8-10

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; ¹⁰ for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

FACT #5 - FAITH FOCUSES ON WHAT IS SPIRITUAL AND ETERNAL MORE THAN WHAT IS MATERIAL AND TEMPORARY**Mark 8:38**

For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.

Matthew 6:19-21

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.