

**SLIDE #1 – Welcome to our Spiritual Family**

- Great morning to all & welcome to our Spiritual Community in North Family of San Diego Church of Christ.
- I hope you have been enjoying reading the “Passport to the Land of Enough” & it’s been good talking about doing “Finances God’s Way”.
- We still have books “Passport to the Land of Enough” if you want one. Ushers please pass out books, we got one for each member & some extra’s. Cost is \$5. You can go the Church App. to pay later. This week we are reading Week 3.
- Thanks for praying for Mae’s mom, she has returned home from Nursing care facility & after past couple months since her stroke.....
- Great service last week with our Youth & Family Ministry leading it..... love passing on our faith to the next generation
- March madness is before us.... Brackets, college basketball championship.....

**Let’s PRAY -**

- Be with our brothers & sisters in Middle East, Mexico & Philippines
- Be with our hearts to support Special Contribution with a goal for each of us to give 8-10 times what we give every week on May 19<sup>th</sup>.....
- Spiritual needs of everyone here
- Help us move forward by Faith in 2019
- Help us love one another within the body of Christ to spiritually strengthen one another & help to ensure there are no needy persons among us.
- Thanks for the brothers having “We band of brothers breakfast” yesterday at Banks home. Help us strengthen the brotherhood.
- Be with Mike Cichoraki, Paula Harrison, Lucy Inga - as ones away from body of Christ due to health challenges & help us pray for them & reach out to them to put your word into practice.
- Guide our country, help our leaders to entrust themselves to you & protect us from the evil, hate & distrust in this world.
- Help each one of our children have a pure, whole hearted, devotion to follow Jesus & become disciples before they pass. AMEN!!

**SLIDE #2:**

- **Turn over in your bibles to Hebrews 11:8-22;**
- **This morning, I will be talking about “Faith That Embraces The Promises of God”**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. In the first **seven verses** of the **eleventh chapter**, we saw...
  1. Faith **explained**...
    1. 1) As confidence of things hoped for
    2. 2) As conviction of things not seen
  2. Faith **exemplified**...
    1. 1) In Abel (faith worshipping)
    2. 2) In Enoch (faith walking)
    3. 3) In Noah (faith working)
  3. Faith **emphasized**...
    1. 1) Without which it is impossible to please God

2. 2) We must believe He exists, and rewards those who diligently seek Him
2. Another aspect of our faith pertains to **“the promises of God”** in which we hope...
  1. We are warned not to fall short of what has been promised - **He 4:1**
  2. Faith (along with patience) is necessary to inherit the promises - **He 6:11-12**
3. The faith which pleases God, then, is one that **embraces** God’s promises...
  1. In **verses 8-22**, we learn of the faith of those who “embraced the promises”
  2. Because of their faith, “God is not ashamed to be called their God”

[Do we have the sort of faith that makes God unashamed to be called our God? To answer this question, let’s use the text of our study to review...]

### **SLIDE #3: Hebrews 11:8-22: READ**

<sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup> And by faith even **Sarah**, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she<sup>[b]</sup> considered him faithful who had made the promise. <sup>12</sup> 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.

<sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> 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.

<sup>17</sup> 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, <sup>18</sup> even though God had said to him, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.”<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>19</sup> Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.

<sup>20</sup> By faith **Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau** in regard to their future.

<sup>21</sup> By faith **Jacob**, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph’s sons, and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff.

<sup>22</sup> By faith **Joseph**, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions concerning the burial of his bones.

### **SLIDE #4: I. THE FAITH OF THE 5 PATRIARCHS (8-12,17-22)**

## 1. THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM...

### 1. By faith he “obeyed” - **He 11:8**

1. When God called him to leave his country, he obeyed the voice of the Lord
  1. 1) Even though at first he did not know where he was going
  2. 2) This is a good example of conviction in “things not seen”!
2. Here we learn that faith and obedience are not contradictory terms

1) Indeed, Jesus is the “author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him” - **He 5:9**

2) Is our faith an “obedient faith” like Abraham’s? - cf. **Lk 6:46**

### 2. By faith he “sojourned” (stay somewhere temporarily) - **He 11:9-10**

1. His faith required him to live “as in a foreign country”
  1. 1) Even though it was the “land of promise”, he and his descendants could not have it for four hundred years - cf. **Gen 13:14-17; 15:13-21**
  2. 2) He therefore patiently waited for the city “whose builder and maker is God”
    1. a) This suggests that the promises he embraced were more than just those pertaining to the land of Canaan
    2. b) Later, we will confirm that he had a heavenly hope as well!
2. Our faith requires us to live “as in a foreign country”

1) For we too are “sojourners and pilgrims” - **1 Pe 2:11**

1. 2) Is our faith a “sojourning faith” like Abraham’s? - cf. **He 13:14**

### 3. By faith he “offered up Isaac” - **He 11:17-19**

1. His faith required him to be willing to offer that which was closest to him
  1. 1) His son, Isaac - **Gen 22:1-19**
    1. a) Through whom the promises he embraced were to be fulfilled
    2. b) He assumed that God would raise Isaac from the dead, if need be, in order to keep His promises
  2. 2) Thus he illustrated that confidence “in things hoped for”!
2. Our faith often requires forsaking that which is closest to us
  1. 1) Our loved ones, even our own life! - cf. **Lk 14:26-33**
  2. 2) Is our faith an “offering faith” like Abraham’s? - cf. **Ro 12:1-2**

## 2. THE FAITH OF SARAH...

### 1. By faith she received strength to conceive a child - **He 11:11-12**

1. Though beyond the normal age of childbearing - **Gen 18:1-3; 21:1-7**
2. Though she laughed when she first heard of God’s promise, she later “judged Him faithful who had promised”
3. Through her faith, the promises of a great nation were fulfilled!

### 2. Our faith requires looking to God for strength, and trusting He will provide

1. We must look to God to “find grace to help in time of need” - **He 4:16**
2. Is our faith a “receiving faith” like Sarah’s? - cf. **Ph 4:13**

## 3. THE FAITH OF ISAAC...

1. He blessed Jacob and Esau regarding things to come - **He 11:20; cf. Gen 27:1-40**
2. This illustrates how Isaac by faith “embraced” the promises

## 4. THE FAITH OF JACOB...

1. Jacob blessed the sons of Joseph when he was dying - **He 11:21; cf. Gen 48:14-20**

2. His blessing involved the promises of God, showing how he embraced them also
5. THE FAITH OF JOSEPH...
1. When he was dying, Joseph:
    1. Made mention of the departure of Israel out of Egypt
    2. Gave instructions concerning his bones - He 11:22; cf. Gen 50:24-26
  2. In so doing, he demonstrated that he had “embraced the promises”!

#### **SLIDE #5: II. HOW THEIR FAITH PLEASED GOD (13-16)**

**Hebrews 11:13-16; READ** <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> 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.

#### **A. THEY EMBRACED THE PROMISES... - He 11:13-16a**

1. They did not receive the promises during their lifetime
  1. Yet with faith they could see them afar off
  2. They freely confessed to be strangers and pilgrims on the earth
    - 1) This implies that they sought a homeland
    - 2) But what they desired was a better one, indeed a heavenly country
2. Therefore, they died “in faith” (i.e., holding fast to the promises)

#### **SLIDE #6:**

#### **B. THEREFORE GOD IS NOT ASHAMED OF THEM... - He 11:16b**

1. He is not ashamed to be called their God
  1. He is well pleased with them
  2. **It was their faith embracing the promises that pleased Him**
2. He has prepared a city for them
  1. What they waited for, He has prepared - cf. **He 11:10**
  2. That which He has prepared is what we look for, too - cf. **He 13:14**
    - 1) I.e., the new heavens and new earth - cf. **2 Pe 3:13**
    - 2) In which will be the “New Jerusalem,” that “great city...descending out of heaven” - cf. **Re 21:1-3,10ff**
    - 3) Indeed, even now in a sense we have “come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem...” - **He 12:22-24**

#### **SLIDE #7: CONCLUSION**

1. What kind of faith pleases God? Certainly a...
  1. **Worshipping faith** like that of Abel
  2. **Walking faith** like that of Enoch
  3. **Working faith** like that of Noah
  4. Also a **Waiting faith** seen in the 5 patriarchs this morning (Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph)!
2. The faith that pleases God is one that **“embraces the promises”** made by God...
  1. Patiently waiting for their ultimate fulfillment, even if it doesn't happen in one's lifetime
  2. But with conviction and confidence of “things hoped for” and “things of unseen”...
    - 1) We will “obey” His calling
    - 2) We will “sojourn” here on earth
    - 3) We will “offer” up whatever He asks of us
    - 4) We will “receive strength” to do whatever He bids us
    - 5) And we will “make mention” of His promises from generation to generation!

EX: This makes me think of our church family & how grateful I am for how we read our bibles & our reputation is known as men or women of God who know our bibles. So many people today do not know their bibles. When studying bible with someone to help them in their faith **1 Thess.2:13**; And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe!

3. This is the kind of faith...
  1. In those “who believe to the saving of the soul” - **He 10:39**
  2. In those of whom “God is not ashamed to be called their God” - **He 11:16**; May the Lord grant us grace and mercy to develop this kind of saving faith!