

The Growth of Faith

Abraham

- I. Intro.

Since we are telling the story of redemption, we must understand “faith.” Faith is required for salvation and then continues to grow as we mature on our journey.
- A. Abraham was saved by faith Rom. 4:1-3
Salvation has not changed from the Old to the New Testament. Faith is and has always been the method of connecting with God.
- B. Abraham is linked to our faith Gal. 3:6-9
Abraham is considered the “father” of the faithful. We are link to him because we also follow the path of faith.
- C. Abraham is held out as an example to us Heb. 11:8-12
His life of faith is a model for us.
- II. Abraham had a purpose Gen. 17:6-8 as do we all Mark 13:34
We all have a purpose. We will only be fulfilled in life as we recognize that purpose and live is out in our lives. It must be that which glorifies God.
- III. God gave him special qualifications Gen. 18:19 as well as us I Cor. 12:7
We can identify with Abraham because we all have been place on the globe and given a special task to fill. The skills needed to fill that task are bestowed upon us. It is our job to pursue our calling.
- IV. The call to faith Gen. 11:31-32
For Abraham it started in Ur of the Chaldees. Where does yours start?
- V. Faith begins 12:4
For Abraham, he stepped out and followed God’s way. It will happen the same way for you.
- VI. Faith will lead you to Gods house 12:8
Bethel means “house of God.” As a result of his accepting by faith God’s way, he landed in “house of God.”
- VII. Baby faith is tested 12:10
Life is a series of tests from God. Each one strengthens us as we follow the steps of faith.
- VIII. Baby faith has fear 12:12
Fear, doubt, wonder are all natural on our journey. Each step we gain understanding.
- IX. Failure effects others 12:17
No person lives totally isolated. Every act we perform affects someone else.
- X. Faith gets back on track 13:1-4
It is expected that we will find our way back on track after we stray. A sincere follower of Jesus will seek to do right.
- XI. New faith struggles with old ways 13:6-7
Abraham was instructed to depart from Lot. Had he obeyed completely this strife would not have happened. Complete obedience is the goal of a follower of Jesus.

- XII. The new way is compelled by faith 13:9
Obey now.
- XIII. The old way lives by sight 13:10
Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things *unseen*. Heb. 11:1
- XIV. Faith is rewarded 13:14-18
Expect God's blessing when you obey.
- XV. Faith acknowledges others 14:14-16
It's not all about you. Someone else needs help. Pass it on.
- XVI. Faith practices stewardship 14:17-20
Who is this priest of the most high God? It's Jesus making a visit in the Old Testament. The priesthood had not yet been established, yet here is the priest (Heb. 1-3). Abraham feels compelled to make an offering of 10% of his wealth. This is the start of a pattern for us.
- XVII. Faith puts material goods in perspective 14:21-22
The pursuit of "stuff" is a lifetime distraction. How much is enough? One man said "just a little bit more." A person who lives only to acquire more, will not have a fruitful life (Matt. 13:22).
- XVIII. Impatient faith doesn't wait 16:1-4, 12
One of the hardest lessons in life is to learn to "wait" on God (Isaiah 40:31). It is a hard lesson for everyone, patience. Abraham's impatience will cause a world of trouble. This illegitimate child is the problem with the Middle East today. Isaac is the first Arab (Gen. 16:12). Since God promised to multiply the seed of Abraham, He did. Both Isaac (Jews) and Ishmael (Arabs) claim the same land, the land of Abraham.
- XIX. Faith overcomes the flesh 17:9-11
A painful reminder to Abraham of his commitment to God.
- XX. Faith realizes its purpose 21:1-3
Finally the promised son is given. God will always work it out.
- XXI. Big faith must pass big tests 22:1-10
Could you put God that far above your son? What a huge test.
- XXII. Mature faith sees miracles 22:11-12
God is smarter than all of us. Who could have dreamed that God would provide a sacrifice? Remember lesson two. A sacrifice was always in the plan of God. The ultimate sacrifice is Jesus (John 1:35-36).
- XXIII. Great Faith is renown 22:15-18
"All nations of the earth" bless? Not too bad for a farm boy.

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