



"Looking Ahead!"

The power of looking ahead with faith in God's Promises!

We looked last Sunday at God taking Abraham outside to look at the stars and God's promise to him! Check this next story out on looking ahead and faith!

- **Hebrews 11:17-19**
- **Verse 17** – *"by faith...who had received God's promises..."*
- God was now testing Abraham's faith! Watch the power of having faith in God's promises and truly believing...**Hebrews 11:17** – *"was ready to sacrifice his only son, Isaac..."*
- **Verses 18-19** – **Abraham is having to believe so much in God's promise** - *"Isaac is the son whom your descendants will be counted." // "Abraham reasoned that if Isaac died, that God was able to bring him back to life again."*
- You talk about faith! Not just faith, but what kind of faith really counts? Faith in God's promises!!!

1. What is faith?

- **Hebrews 11:1** – *"Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see."*
- **How do we get faith?** We are each given a measure of faith when we repent of our sins and confess Jesus as Lord / believe that He is raised from the dead! **Romans 10:9-10 / Romans 12:3**

A. How do we grow our faith in God?

- **Believers have a sure foundation already** (**1 Corinthians 3:11 / Ephesians 2:20**)
- **#1. Hearing and applying the message of Jesus Christ!** **Romans 10:17 / James 1:22**
- **#2. Prayer!** **Jude 1:20** - This is simply consistent daily prayer as you pray according to the Will of God...the Bible...not gibberish or fancy words. Prayer based on the Scriptures in the name of Jesus! *We pray to the Heavenly Father in Jesus name!*

2. Looking ahead and having faith in God's Promises is a huge deterrent to sin!

- Hebrews 11:24-27
- Exodus 2:10 gave Moses the right in position as the adopted son of Pharaoh's daughter.
- Hebrews 11:24 – "It was by faith he refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter"
- Hebrews 11:25 – "He chose the oppression of God's people..."
- Moses would have sinned against God had he refused to take the responsibility God gave him regarding Israel! Moses had a very clear and strong conviction that God would use him to deliver the Israelites! Acts 7:23-24 & 27
- Hebrews 11:25 – "...instead of enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin."
- **How? How did he do this?** He had everything at his disposal! Anything, anytime and anywhere that he wanted!
- Hebrews 11:26 – "...for he was looking ahead to his great reward."
- Hebrews 11:27 – "It was by faith that Moses left the land of Egypt, not fearing the king's anger. He kept right on going because he kept his eyes on the One who is invisible."
- How powerful is looking ahead because your faith is in God's Promises? Just look at these scriptures! Hebrews 11:13, Hebrews 11:35-40 and Genesis 41:25.
- **What was the key?** Matthew 6:33! These people were all about God and His Kingdom now and looking ahead 1st!

Closing: While looking ahead, be aware of the temptation to run ahead of God's timing!

- Acts 7:25 – "Moses assumed (supposed or thought) his fellow Israelites would realize that God had sent him to rescue them, but they didn't."
- When God puts something in your heart, and opens up the Blue Prints of His Word to you and you SEE what He is prompting you to do...it's so easy to just go for it!
- **There is a danger in running ahead of God's timing!**
- Psalm 37:7 – "Be still in the presence of the Lord, and wait patiently for Him to act!"
- Remember the story of Abraham and Sarah in Genesis 16:1-2? She ran ahead of God's timing and Abraham went along with it! Just look at the Middle East today!
- **There can be horrible consequences to running ahead of God!**

* God has a timetable for things!

- Galatians 4:4 – "But when the right time came, God sent his Son..."
- Romans 5:6 – "When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners."
- 1 Peter 5:6 – "So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor."
- Ecclesiastes 3:1 – "For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under Heaven."

*What God puts into your spirit and calls you to do...you must trust that He will direct your path! Proverbs 3:5-6! (This only happens by following Him daily!)

*You will know and see what your steps should be Psalm 119:105 / Habakkuk 2:1-3!