

# Relationship with God is a Relationship of Faith

## Hebrews 11:8-16

### Introduction and Caution:

With every teaching in the Bible we are faced with a dilemma. How do we read scripture? Do we immerse ourselves in a biblical understanding and allow it to speak to us (exegesis) or do we read our own understanding into the Bible (eisegesis)? Faith is one such teaching.

There is a world view of faith that is foreign to scripture. That view can be expressed like this. Faith is a “power” and can accomplish anything we want. In an extreme way, this idea is expressed in sorcery, witchcraft, and in modern thinking, “telekinesis.” It is the idea that if we believe something strong enough it will be done. This idea is expressed in much so-called Christian teaching but it is not Christian faith and is not what the Bible actually means by faith. In simplistic terms, I call this “faith in faith.”

Biblical faith is “faith in God.” We do not *initiate* things with our faith. God initiates and accomplishes and we respond with trust and obedience. That is biblical and true Christian faith.

### I. Hebrews 11:8-10

- i. He went out **without knowing where he was going.**
- ii. All my ministerial life people have asked me what is your vision? Where are you going? I had to confess that if I was honest, I could only say “I am simply following God.” Stuart Mc Alpine – He helped me greatly by pointing me to this verse. Does anyone truly know where God is taking them?
- iii. He lived as an alien (like a foreigner) in the land of promise
- iv. **Psalm 39:4-7, Psalm 90:12**– This life is only preparation for the next world!
- v. Abraham was confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundations, a city designed by God.

## II. Hebrews 11:11-12

- i. Sarah – “She believed that God would keep His promise.” She laughed...
- ii. Both Abraham and Sarah had a journey with their faith. Sometimes showing great faith, other times, acting without faith (Egypt, Ishmael). They were not perfect yet God did not give up on them but patiently carried them through.
- iii. Thomas – “I won’t believe it unless...” (**John 20:25**)
- iv. We too can grow in our faith, have moments of doubt and questions, and still God does not give up on us but rather walks us towards growth as well.

## III. Hebrews 11:13-16

- i. They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth – As a people who live by faith, this is the way we are called to view our lives!
- ii. They were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. **That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God**, for He has prepared a city for them. - **John 14:1-3**