

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for January 1, 2017

Old Testament Examples of Saving Faith
Hebrews 11:8-22

The author, after confidently stating that he believed that both he and his readers possessed faith, then went on using Old Testament examples of faith to challenge his readers to continue to walk by faith (Hebrews 11:1-40).

The author began by highlighting examples of faith from the time period that preceded the flood (Hebrews 11:4-7).

The author then highlighted examples of faith from the time period of the patriarchs (Hebrews 11:8-22).

The first Old Testament example of faith from the time period of the patriarchs was Abraham (Hebrews 11:8-19).

The author highlighted the faith of Abraham by pointing his readers to four different expressions of faith from his life.

The first expression of faith from Abraham's life was his obedient response to God's call to leave his home without knowing exactly where he was going (Hebrews 11:8; cf. Genesis 12:1-3; 13:14-15).

The second expression of faith from Abraham's life was that though he lived his life in the land of promise, in a tent as an alien, he never stopped trusting in God's promise to him concerning the land (Hebrews 11:9; cf. Genesis 13:8-18).

The third expression of faith from Abraham's life was when Abraham chose to believe that God according to His promise would give him and his wife a son, when such a thing seemed humanly impossible (Hebrews 11:11-12; cf. Genesis 18:1-15).

The fourth expression of faith from Abraham's life was when he in obedience to God was willing to offer up his son as a sacrifice to God even though it was through his son that the promises of God were to be fulfilled (Hebrews 11:17-19; cf. Genesis 22:1-10).

The next examples of faith from the time period of the patriarchs were Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph (Hebrews 11:19-22).

The faith of the patriarchs of Israel was able to endure because they primarily focused on the heavenly city and the blessings of that city and not on the things of this earth (Hebrews 11:10, 13-16).

May we by the grace of God, like the patriarchs, continue to focus on the heavenly city and the blessings of that city so that we, while enduring in our faith, might be assured that we will one day enter that city and the blessings of it.

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