

July 13, 2008  
*The Bridge Bible Fellowship*  
Pastor Paul S. Brown  
Hebrews 11:17-19

***“Jesus Christ is Infinitely Better!”***  
**Examples of Faith, Part Five: Abraham, Part Two**

- I. Jesus Christ: Infinitely Better in His PERSON (1-7)
- II. Jesus Christ: Infinitely Better in His WORK (8:1-10:18)
- III. Christianity: An Infinitely Better WALK OF FAITH (10:19-13:24) [A COMPLETED FAITH]
  - A. The Confidence of Faith (10:19-39)
  - B. The Examples of Faith (11)
    - 1. Definition (Description) of Faith (11:1-3)
    - 2. Examples of Faith (11:4-40)
      - a. Abel (v. 4) – Faith Worshiping
      - b. Enoch (v. 5-6) – Faith Walking
      - c. Noah (v. 7) – Faith Working
      - d. Abraham (v. 8-19) – Faith Waiting
        - 1) Without knowing Where (v. 8-10)
        - 2) Without knowing How (v. 11-12)
        - 3) Without knowing When (v. 13-16)
        - 4) Without knowing \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 17-19)**
          - a) Recognizing the Invisible God**

**b) Responding obediently to God’s spoken word**

**c) Receiving God’s gracious approval**

## Discussion Questions:

1. How old was Abram (Abraham) when God established His covenant with him in Gen. 12? How old was he when he agreed to Sarai's (Sarah's) plan to have a child through Hagar? How old was he when Isaac was finally born? If you had waited that long for a promise to be fulfilled, how excited would you be when it finally came about? What would you do to protect that child of promise?
2. What did Sarah do when she heard about having a son at her age (Gen. 18:9-15)? What did Abraham do (Gen. 17:17)? Was there any difference in the two responses?
3. What does the author of Hebrews mean when he says that Isaac was Abraham's "only begotten" son? What about Ishmael? In what sense is Isaac the "only begotten"? How does this make the test even more difficult?
4. Which of these four tests of faith is the most difficult for you? a) Not knowing where; b) Not knowing when; c) Not knowing how; d) Not knowing why. Why is that particular one the most difficult for you?
5. What did Abraham have to believe about the invisible God to get through this extreme test? Even though the 10 Commandments had not been given to Moses yet, which ones would have applied in this particular test? Read Col. 3:5.
6. Abraham believed the situation was impossible for man, but he believed something else was more impossible for God. What is that? (See Num. 23:19; Josh. 21:45; 23:14; Tit. 1:2; Heb. 6:18) Who would like us to believe something different about God? (See Gen. 3; John 8:44) What can we do to develop faith like Abraham's and trust God in "impossible" situations?
7. In Heb. 11:19, what does the word "considered" mean? What is the significance of that word? Is faith simply a blind leap into the dark or is it intelligent? How does your answer match with Heb. 11:1 & 6? What are you facing right now that you need to "consider" GOD and His proper place in that trial?
8. In Heb. 11:19, the NIV says that "figuratively speaking" Abraham did receive Isaac back from death. The NASB says that Abraham "received him back as a type." The Greek word is our word "parable." In what sense did Abraham receive Isaac back from the dead if he never died? In what sense was Isaac a parable or type? What did he typify? In what sense is the anti-type infinitely greater than the type?
9. What promises has God given to you? How many can you find in the Bible? How many will He keep? What will you do differently this week to hang on to the God of those promises when you can't see when, where, or how He will fulfill them? What will you think/do differently this week when God calls you to do something and you don't understand why?

[Answer to blank: "why"]