

We need Great Faith to meet Great Challenges

Faith is absolute trust in a loving and powerful God to fulfil all His promises.



The Great Faith of Abraham & Sarah



Our Great Faith Journey:

Faith, not in positive thinking Faith, not in powerful machines or gadgets Faith, not in well-thought-out plans

Faith in a person - Jesus Christ

Great **Faith** equates to:

Great **Endurance** – The Hebrew Believers *Hebrews* 10:32 Great **Consistency** to Please God – Enoch *Hebrews* 11:5-6 Great **Obedience** (Radical) – Noah *Hebrews* 11:7 Great **Risks** for a Great Purpose – Moses *Hebrews* 11:24-27 Great **Belief** to God's Future Promises – Abraham *Hebrews* 11:8-12



Hebrews 11:8-12 ESV

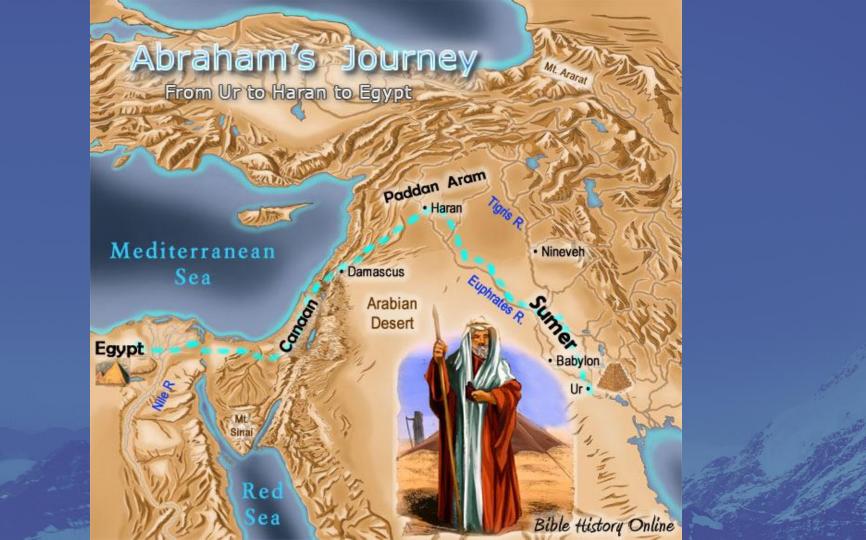
⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. 10 For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. 11 By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. 12 Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

Background of Abraham

Abraham's Call

Acts 7:2-3 ESV

² And Stephen said: "Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, ³ and said to him, 'Go out from your land and from your kindred and go into the land that I will show you.'



Abraham: An Important Background

What Abraham gave up:

- Ancient Chaldean Historical records; land contained riches beyond imagination. History precedes Egypt and the Pyramids.
- Ancient Ur Highly advanced culture; Nice homes and Lush Gardens, but a place of Idolatry – worship the moon-god Nanna.
- Strategic for Business and Worldly living.



Abraham: An Important Background

- God's Covenant vs Realities
- God Promised land: Canaanites possessed the land
- God Promised to make him into a Great Nation: Sarah is barren (Genesis 11:30)
- God changed his name to Abraham (Father of Many Nations):
 Abraham was 100 years old
- God changed Sarai's name to Sarah and promised a Son:
 Sarah was 90 years old

Abraham Believed Despite The Realities

Genesis 15:5-7 ESV

⁵ And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." ⁶ And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness. ⁷ And he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess."

Abraham Believed Despite The Realities

Romans 4:20-22 ESV

²⁰ No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²² That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness."

The Great Faith of Abraham

Great Faith Enables Great Belief in God's Promises

Despite the sharpest realities against God's promises, Abraham did not waver in unbelief.



Hebrews 11:8-12 ESV

8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. 10 For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. 11 By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. 12 Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

Because of Abraham's Belief that God will fulfil all His Promises

His Obedience was the Expression of His Faith



Hebrews 11:9-10 ESV

⁹ By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

Hebrews 11:11 ESV

¹¹ By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised.

Romans 4:18 NIV

¹⁸ Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

Hebrews 11:12 ESV

¹² Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

Galatians 3:6-7 ESV

⁶ Just as Abraham "believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"? ⁷ Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham.

