



Persevering Faith Obeys God in the Unknown

Lesson Forty-Two • Hebrews 11:8-16

HEBREWS 11: PERSEVERING FAITH KEEPS MOVING FORWARD to PLEASE GOD!

PERSEVERING FAITH DEFINED & DISPLAYED (1-3)

Defined: Pleasing God by Living in Light of His Promised Future and in Sight of His Unseen Realities. (vv. 1-2)

Displayed: in This Seen World Which God Prepared Out of Nothing by the Power of His Spoken Word for This Very Purpose! (v. 3)

PERSEVERING FAITH DEMONSTRATED (4-38)

Old Covenant Believers Illustrate How Living by Persevering Faith Pleases God to Motivate Us to Activate Our Faith on Our Pilgrimage to Final Rest!!

POST-FALL to PRE-FLOOD (4-7)

Persevering Faith **ACTIVELY PLEASES** the Unseen God:

Like Abel Worship Sacrificially, Like Enoch Walk Relationally, and Like Noah Work Fearfully as an Heir of Righteousness!

PATRIARCHS • Part 1 (8-16)

Persevering Faith **OBEDIENTLY WAITS** for God's Promised Future:

Like Abraham with Sarah and His Heirs Wander Obediently on This Earth by Looking and Longing for God's Promised Future Even in the Face of Death!

Genesis 1–11 • In the Midst of Corrupt Perversion

Genesis 12–21 • On the Basis of Covenant Promises

Hebrews 11:8-16 | Genesis 12–21

“BY FAITH Abraham...**OBEYED** by **GOING OUT**...**BY FAITH** he **LIVED** as an alien in the land of promise...**DWELLING** in **TENTS**.....**BY FAITH** even Sarah herself **RECEIVED ABILITY** to **CONCEIVE**...**THEREFORE** there was **BORN** of one man, and him dead at that, as many descendants as the stars...and the sand...All these **DIED** in **FAITH**, **WITHOUT RECEIVING** the promises, but **having SEEN** them and **having WELCOMED** them from a distance, and **having CONFESSED**...**SEEKING** a country of their own...**[DID NOT] RETURN**...they **DESIRE** a better [homeland]...**heavenly one**. **THEREFORE**, God is **NOT ASHAMED** to be **CALLED** their God, for He has **PREPARED** a **CITY** for them.” (vv. 8-16)

Five Observations

1. Persevering faith is **ACTIVE** not passive.
2. The **LAND** and **SEED** promises of the Abrahamic Covenant are emphasized.
3. Persevering faith requires **COMPLEMENTARITY**. (cf. 11:23, 31, 35)!
4. Begins with wanderers in **TENTS** (present) but ends with citizens in a **CITY** built by God (future)!
5. Persevering faith obeys God in the **UNKNOWN** and even in the face of **DEATH**.

Abraham's Background: Genesis Ch 12–21 and Age: 75 to 100 Years Old!

Abraham lives out the **progression of persevering faith**: Abraham **WORSHIPS** God **sacrificially** like Abel (12:7-8; 13:3-4, 18; 22:9) as he **WALKS with God relationally** like Enoch (17:1-2; 24:40; 48:15; cf. James 2:23, “he was called the friend of God,”) and **WORKS for God fearfully** like Noah (22:12; cf. James 2:21-24, “Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected...”). The progression now continues as Abraham **WANDERS toward God confidently** in light His promised future inheritance despite so many unknowns!

How Does Persevering Faith Obey God Even in the Unknown?

1. Persevering Faith **STEPS OUT** in Obedience When God Calls. (Promised Inheritance!)

“By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going.” (v. 8)

- Those whom God calls will keep obeying **UNTIL** they receive His promised, heavenly inheritance. (3:1, 6, 12-14; 9:15)

Persevering faith keeps taking that next step to obey God's call to move forward until we reach His final rest!

- Those who obey God's heavenly calling do so **WITHOUT** knowing all the future holds. (3:1, 6)

2. Persevering Faith LIVES OUT as Wanderers This Earth. (Promised Land!)

"By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God." (vv. 9-10)

- Wanderers keep living like this earthly world is NOT their home. (v. 9)

Pictures for Living Out Persevering Faith

1. Live Like Wanderers: We're just a PASSING through!
2. Live Like Tent dwellers: We don't PUT DOWN roots here!
3. Live Like Fellow-heirs: We have received the SAME promise!

- Wanderers keep looking for the promised heavenly City God has PREPARED. (v. 10)

What Does It Mean to Keep Looking?

Keep Looking for Whom and What?

1. A city...
2. Which has foundations...
3. Whose designer and builder is God Himself from heaven!

Who Is Waiting for Us and With Us and Like Us?

"but [JESUS], having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time onward until His enemies be made a footstool for His feet." Hebrews 10:12-13

3. Persevering Faith REACHES OUT for God's Ability to Do the Impossible. (Promised Seed!)

"By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised. Therefore there was born even of one man, and him as good as dead at that, as many descendants as the stars of heaven in number, and innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore." (vv. 11-12)

- By our faith we CONSIDER God faithful (able) to keep His promises. (v. 11)
- By His faithfulness (grace) God does above and BEYOND what we could ask or think. (v. 12)

"Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21

4. Persevering Faith HOLDS OUT for God's Future Even in the Face of Death. (Better Future!)

"All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them." (vv. 13-16)

By Persevering Faith Obediently Wait as Wanderers for the Better City of God!

Obediently waits for God's future promises to be fulfilled by living as a wanderer on this earth—always looking and longing for Christ to bring God's heavenly city in the coming Kingdom and New Creation!