

BY FAITH ABRAHAM...

*Hebrews 11:17-19*

INTRODUCTION:

A. We are well aware of saving faith

- 1) That is, faith is the basis of salvation
- 2) *Ephesians 2:8*

B. We must also live by faith *Hebrews 10:38*

- 1) *"Now the just shall live by faith..."*
- 2) *"...but if any man draw back..."*
- 3) *"...my soul shall have no pleasure in him."*

C. Without faith we cannot please Him *11:6*

- 1) We must believe that He is!
- 2) We must believe that He rewards our diligent search
- 3) We do this by faith

D. It is by faith that we pass God's tests

- 1) This is never to do wrong or to sin
- 2) This test of Abraham was to test his faith to see if he would obey God.

I. Abraham's Faith Tested *vs 17*

A. *"By faith Abraham when he was tried..."*

- 1) *"tried" = πειραζω = "assay", "put to the proof", "examine as metals by fire", "to prove"*
- 2) *"when he was being put to the test"*

B. *"...offered up Isaac..."*

- 1) *"offered" = προσφέρω = "to offer as a sacrifice"*
- 2) *"had already brought Isaac for an offering"*

C. "...and he that had received the promises..."

- 1) "received" = αναδεχομαι = "to gladly receive" He welcomed and cherished the divine change and viewed it as a noble charge.
- 2) "This man who had joyfully made God's promises his own"

D. "...offered up his only begotten Son."

- 1) "offered" = (same)
- 2) "only begotten" = μονογενης = "only one of the kind" He had other sons but only one by faith.

E. "Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:" vs 18

- 1) "Even he to whom it was said..." ASV
- 2) "Through Isaac shall your descendants be named" RSV
- 3) This is the "seed", singular, that Paul wrote of in the book of Romans.

II. Abraham's Offering Of Isaac Genesis 22:1-19

A. God's command to Abraham

- 1) Take your only son Isaac, whom thou lovest..."
- 2) Offer him there as a burnt offering

B. Abraham's response

- 1) He rose up early in the morning
- 2) He clave the wood for the burnt offering

C. Abraham's faith

- 1) "I and the lad will go yonder and worship"
- 2) "...and come again unto you"

## D. Abraham's act

- 1) Abraham built an altar there
- 2) He laid the wood in order
- 3) He bound Isaac and laid him upon the altar
- 4) He took the knife to slay his son

## E. The voice of God

- 1) "Lay not thine hand upon the lad"
- 2) Abraham did what God said. That is his faith. He heard God speak and believed what He said.

## F. God's provision

- 1) A ram caught in a thicket by the horns
- 2) He offered him instead of his son

## G. God's praise

- 1) "*Because thou hast done this thing,...*"
- 2) "*...and hast not withheld thine only son,...*"
- 3) "*...that in blessing will I bless thee.*"

## III. The Answer vs 19

A. "*Accounting that God was able to raise him up, ...even from the dead;...*"

- 1) "*accounting*" = λογίζομαι =

To consider, to reckon. The verb is used by Paul in the sense of to calculate or reckon up on the basis of firm evidence. The word denotes the inward conviction, persuasion, not a more or less reliable opinion (Hughes). The part. could be used to express the cause or reason and explains why Abraham had the courage to sacrifice Isaac, although the action seemed certain to ruin the fulfillment of what God had promised him.

- 2) "*able*" = δυνατός = "capable, because of His power"
- 3) "*raise up*" = εγείρω = "to awaken", "to cause to rise up"
- 4) "He believed that God could raise his son up, even if he were dead" PHI

B. "...from whence also he received him in a figure"

- 1) "received" = ΕΚΟΜΙΣΑΤΟ = "he obtained"
- 2) "figure" = παραβολη = "a placing side by side for the purpose of comparison"
- 3) "Hence, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back"RSV

#### IV. The Lessons We Should Learn

A. The just shall live by faith!

- 1) This is a specific command
- 2) It is not dispensational

B. God will test our faith

- 1) If we have it, God will test it
- 2) Why? That is His business
- 3) How? That too is His business

C. God will reward our faith

- 1) If we have it, and God tests it, and our response pleases Him, He rewards it.
- 2) What is His reward?
- 3) Only God knows in advance

D. If we live by faith we will have faith when we experience a crisis.

- 1) We learn God's ways when we live by faith
- 2) We learn to trust Him
- 3) When a crisis comes, we know what to do and what not to do.