



WALKING ON WATER  
BIBLE CHURCH

# *The* **FAITH** *of* **ABRAHAM** *and* **SARAH**

HEBREWS 11:8-12

# Hebrews 11:8-12

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- 8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.  
9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;  
10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

## Hebrews 11:8-12

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- 10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.  
11 By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.  
12 Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

# BY FAITH: ABRAHAM

HEBREWS 11:8–12

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- Faith obeys God even before the destination is clear.
- Faith remains where God places us—even in discomfort.
- Faith inherits through Christ, the promised Seed.
- Faith looks for the city built and prepared by God.

# FOUR MOVEMENTS OF FAITH

HEBREWS 11:8–12

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- OBEY: Abraham went out when God called (v. 8).
- DWELL: He lived as a foreigner in promised land (v. 9).
- LOOK: He expected God's enduring city (v. 10).
- TRUST: Sarah and Abraham saw God keep His word (vv. 11–12).

# WHAT THE PASSAGE REPEATS

HEBREWS 11:8–12

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- “By faith” introduces Abraham’s obedience (v. 8).
- “By faith” explains his sojourning in Canaan (v. 9).
- “By faith” frames Sarah’s receiving strength (v. 11).
- Faith links actions and hopes to God’s promise—not sight.

# BY FAITH ABRAHAM OBEYED

HEB. 11:8 • GEN. 12:1–4

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- God issued the call; Abraham did not invent the assignment.
- Abraham responded with action—not agreement alone.
- He departed before the promise was fully possessed.
- Real faith takes God at His word and responds obediently.

# FAITH AND WORKS: RIGHT ORDER

ROM. 4:1–5 • JAS. 2:21–23

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- Romans 4: Abraham was justified by faith, not works.
- Genesis 15:6: Abraham believed God's promise.
- James 2: His obedience made living faith visible.
- Works are faith's fruit—not the price of salvation.

# WHERE DID ABRAHAM LEAVE?

GEN. 11:27–12:5 • ACTS 7:2–4

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- He came from Ur of the Chaldeans in Mesopotamia.
- The family moved to Haran before entering Canaan.
- God appeared to Abraham before he lived in Haran.
- He left familiar land and kin for an unseen inheritance.

# **CALLED TO RECEIVE—NOT OWN**

HEB. 11:8 • GEN. 12:7

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- God promised land to Abraham's offspring (Gen. 12:7).
- Abraham entered the land before inheriting it fully.
- The inheritance rested on God's covenant promise.
- Faith can act before seeing the promised outcome.

# HE DID NOT KNOW WHERE

HEBREWS 11:8

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- He knew WHO called him before knowing the whole route.
- God disclosed enough to obey, not every future detail.
- Uncertainty about the path did not cancel the promise.
- Biblical faith trusts God's word—not blind impulses.

# OBEDIENCE WITHOUT THE MAP

2 COR. 5:7 • PROV. 3:5–6

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- Follow revealed Scripture even when results remain hidden.
- Seek wise counsel; do not mistake haste for faith.
- Trust is tested when obedience costs comfort or control.
- Ask: What clear command have I delayed obeying?

# HE DWELT IN THE LAND

HEBREWS 11:9

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- “Dwelt” describes residing as a stranger or sojourner.
- He was inside promised land yet lacked settled ownership.
- The place of promise still felt like a foreign country.
- Being where God wants you may still feel uncomfortable.

# DWELLING IN TENTS

HEB. 11:9 • GEN. 12:8; 13:18

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- Tents were movable homes—not permanent foundations.
- Abraham's life was marked by ongoing dependence.
- Isaac and Jacob also lived as heirs of the promise.
- Temporary circumstances did not cancel eternal hope.

# STAYING WHEN IT IS HARD

GAL. 6:9 • HEB. 10:36

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- Sometimes faithfulness means staying—not escaping.
- Discomfort alone does not prove you missed God’s will.
- Perseverance continues God-given responsibilities.
- Yet staying is not required in harmful or unsafe places.

# ISAAC AND JACOB: CO-HEIRS

HEB. 11:9 • GEN. 26; 28

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- The same promise continued from Abraham to Isaac.
- God repeated His covenant pledge to Jacob.
- None saw its final fulfillment during their lifetime.
- Faith teaches generations to trust one faithful God.

# WHO ARE ABRAHAM'S SONS?

GALATIANS 3:6–9 • ROMANS 4

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- Abraham believed God and was counted righteous.
- “Those of faith” are called Abraham’s sons (Gal. 3:7).
- The gospel blessing extends to Gentiles by faith.
- Saving inheritance is not secured by ethnicity alone.

# THE ONE PROMISED SEED

GAL. 3:16 • GEN. 22:18

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- God's promises to Abraham reach their goal in Christ.
- Paul identifies Christ as the promised "Seed" (3:16).
- "Seed" can be collective; Paul makes a Christ-centered claim.
- The inheritance belongs to those united to Jesus.

# HEIRS IN CHRIST BY FAITH

GALATIANS 3:26–29

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- “You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.”
- Belonging to Christ makes believers Abraham’s seed.
- Jew and Gentile share covenant blessing in Christ.
- Our lasting identity is received—not self-produced.

# LOOKING FOR A CITY

HEBREWS 11:10

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- Abraham looked beyond tents to a founded city.
- Temporary shelters contrast with lasting foundations.
- God Himself is its designer and builder.
- Faith evaluates today through the lens of God's future.

# A BETTER, HEAVENLY COUNTRY

HEBREWS 11:13–16

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- The patriarchs confessed they were strangers on earth.
- They desired a better country—a heavenly one.
- God prepared a city for them (Heb. 11:16).
- Their deepest hope outlasted life in ancient Canaan.

# ABRAHAM: HEIR OF THE WORLD

ROMANS 4:13

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- Paul calls the promise “heir of the world” (Rom. 4:13).
- Its scope is greater than one ancient parcel of land.
- The promise comes by righteousness through faith.
- Christ brings Abraham’s blessing to the nations.

# ULTIMATE HOPE: NEW CREATION

REV. 21:1–4 • 22:1–5

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- John sees a new heaven and a new earth (Rev. 21:1).
- New Jerusalem comes down from God (Rev. 21:2).
- God dwells with His people; death is abolished.
- The city and renewed creation fulfill pilgrim hope.

# KINGDOM: ALREADY / NOT YET

HEB. 12:28 • ROM. 8:17–25

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- Believers already belong to Christ and His kingdom.
- We still await resurrection and creation's renewal.
- We inherit by grace now; we receive fullness later.
- Therefore, live faithfully—not as if this age is final.

# BY FAITH SARAH RECEIVED

HEB. 11:11 • GEN. 18; 21

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- Sarah was past the ordinary age of childbearing.
- God promised a son in spite of human impossibility.
- She came to judge the Promiser faithful.
- Faith depends on God's power—not our ability.

# SARAH: FROM LAUGHTER TO FAITH

GEN. 18:9–15 • 21:1–7

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- Sarah first laughed at the apparently impossible word.
- God asked, “Is anything too hard for the LORD?”
- Isaac’s birth proved God kept His appointed word.
- Imperfect beginnings need not be the end of faith.

# LIFE OUT OF IMPOSSIBILITY

HEB. 11:12 • ROM. 4:18–21

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- Abraham was “as good as dead” regarding offspring.
- From one man came descendants beyond counting.
- Stars and sand portray the vast covenant family.
- The focus is God’s faithfulness to His own promise.

# BRINGING THE LESSON HOME

HEB. 11:8–12; 13–16

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- OBEY what God has clearly spoken in His Word.
- REMAIN faithful in difficult, God-given responsibilities.
- REST in Christ as Abraham's Seed and our inheritance.
- LOOK toward God's eternal city and renewed creation.