

THE FUNCTION OF FAITH IN THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD (2)  
THE TRACTION OF FAITH  
Hebrews 11:13-22

- I. Faith Is Acting in Reality of Divine Revelation: Metaphysics + Promise (11:1-12)
- II. Faith Is Acting with Covenantal Consciousness in Spite of the Lack of Immediate Positive Reactions (11:13-22)
  - A. Faith Is Choosing the Invisible Better Promises over the Visible (11:13-16)
    - 1. The Heroes of Faith Died without Receiving the Promises (11:13)
      - a. To the World, the Heroes of Faith Died in Vain
      - b. The Heroes of Faith Saw and as Assured of the City of God
      - c. The Heroes of Faith Regarded Themselves as Pilgrims
    - 2. The Heroes of Faith Chose Not to Revert to the Past (11:14-16a)
      - a. The Heroes of Faith Desired a Homeland as All Do (11:14)
      - b. The Heroes of Faith Had a Choice of Returning to the City of Man (11:15)
      - c. The Heroes of Faith Chose the Heavenly Home (11:16a)
    - 3. The Heroes of Faith Became Worthy as the People of God (11:16b)
      - a. God Called Himself the God of the Elect
      - b. God Is Not Ashamed to Be Called the God of the Faithful
      - c. God Faithfully Prepares the City of God for the Faithful
  - B. Faith Is Living with Constant Consciousness of the Covenant before receiving the fruit of the fulfillment (11:17-22)
    - 1. Abraham Sacrificed Isaac by Covenantal Consciousness (11:17-19)
      - a. Abraham Offered His Only Begotten Son as a Sacrifice as God Would Do to His (11:17)
      - b. Abraham Trusted God's Sovereignty of Election Isaac over Ishmael (11:18)
      - c. Abraham Trusted in God's Promise and Understood the Reality of Resurrection (11:19)
    - 2. Isaac Blessed Jacob with Covenantal Consciousness (11:20)
    - 3. Jacob Blessed Children by Covenantal Consciousness (11:21)
    - 4. Joseph Asked for Burial Place by Covenantal Consciousness (11:22)
- III. Faith Is Choosing to Please God More than Man despite Apparent Immediate Bad Consequences (11:23-31)
- IV. Faith Is Keeping Faithful to Covenantal Commitments despite Negative Reactions (11:32-40)

Central Ideas

Faith is trusting in the divine revelation over and against human experience and social expectation. Faith is choosing the invisible and unrealized city of God as homeland over the visible and immediate city of man. Faith is making the critical choices of life in the light of covenantal consciousness, thus in the will of God.

Study Questions  
(Heb 11:13-22)

1. Did the heroes of faith receive immediate gratification?
2. What would the followers of the Word of Faith Movement see these heroes as?
3. Did the heroes of faith have choices? Did they always make the right choices?
4. What critical choice did they make that made them the heroes of faith?
5. Do all people want a homeland? Were the heroes of faith different?
6. Why was it hard to choose the heavenly homeland? What made the difference?
7. Was God the God of the elect because they are faithful?
8. What effect did the faithfulness of man make?
9. Why was the sacrificing of Isaac the characteristic act of faith for Abraham?
10. Why was the blessing of children listed as the characteristic act of faith for Isaac?
11. Why was the blessing of children listed as the characteristic act of faith for Jacob?
12. Why was the asking for burial place the characteristic act of faith for Joseph?
13. What did God do to the patriarchs as a whole prophetic as what he would do to us?
14. Were the patriarchs heroes of faith because of their faithfulness or God's?

## The Faith of the Patriarchs

Abraham	Isaac	Jacob	Joseph
Exodus of Ur Exodus of Haran Entering Canaan Letting Lot choose War with the 4 kings Covenant with God Circumcision Receiving angels Praying for Lot Birth of Isaac Sending out Ishmael <b>Sacrificing Isaac</b> Burying Sarah Finding Rebecca Sending out sons of Keturah	Obedience when being Sacrificed Marrying Rebecca, not Canaanites Staying in Canaan during famine Keeping peace with Abimelech Displeased of Esau's Canaanite wives <b>Blessing Jacob to marry a kinsman</b>	Not marrying Canaanite women Making covenant with God at Bethel Working 7 years to marry Rachel Accepting Leah as a legitimate wife Changing the flock by peeling poplar rods Wrestling with God Making peace with Esau Confirming covenant with God at Bethel Entering Egypt <b>Blessing children</b>	Prophesying to family according to revelation Resisting temptation by the wife of Potiphar Prophesying to jail mates according to rev. Waiting for 2-yrs in jail Prophesying to Pharaoh according to revelation Ruling over Egypt according to revelation Testing brothers Forgiving brothers Protecting Israel <b>Asking to be buried in Canaan</b>
Trust	Obey	Changed	Used
Living by the Covenant			

\* Acts of faith in bold are cited in Hebrews 11:17-22

DAY 08/23/2009, mod. 08/24/2009