

# By Faith: Abraham

Sermon 35 in the Hebrews Series

## Hebrews 11:8-19

Abraham is “the father of the faithful”.

Abraham is one of the key figures in the Bible.

His life is covered in chapters 12-24 of Genesis.

The New Testament shows him to be the prime Old Testament example of faith: See Romans, Galatians, James, and here in Hebrews, not just in chapter 11.

God’s covenant with Abraham can be seen as having two aspects.

1. The Spiritual promises – that culminate in Christ as “the seed”.  
These promises are unconditional and are foretastes of what will be fully realized in the New Covenant.
2. The Physical promises -- land and a physical lineage – as the father of the nation of Israel – and the father of many nations.

### I. He Obeyed when he did not know Where 8-10

A. Only when he arrived did he know Where – **Gen. 12:1-7**

B. Abraham faced at least three Problems

1. The problem of the Canaanites -- **Gen. 12:6b**.

2. The problem of a “seed” **Gen. 12:7; 15:1-6**

**Gen. 12:7** – “descendants” or “offspring”?

**Gal 3:16** -- To Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, “And to seeds”, as of many; but as of one, “And to your Seed”, which is Christ.

**Gen. 15:1-6** -- Getting involved in this warfare caused Abraham to fear, so once again, God came to Abraham and reaffirmed the covenant.

3. Dwelling in tents he lived as a stranger in the Promised Land.

## **II. He Obeyed when he did not know How Heb. 11:11-12**

Sarah is added to the list of the faithful.

She is a shining example of grace although her faith, at times, was weak.

## **III. He Obeyed when he did not know When Heb. 11:13-16**

Abraham understood a great deal, but we must realize he did not fully understand all that God was doing in his life, and all that God would do after his life was ended.

He died in faith, not having received the promises.

He saw them afar off, but did not get to personally partake.  
Like Moses seeing the Promised Land, but not entering in.  
Christ is the ultimate promise.

## **IV. He Obeyed when he did not know Why Heb. 11:17-19**

How could he kill the promised seed?

Why would God ask such a horrible thing?

A good father would rather die than kill his son.

Perhaps God will raise him from the dead?

Figuratively, Abraham received Isaac from the dead.