

Hebrews 11:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

Analysis

Abraham 'when he was called to go out' into an inheritance, 'obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.' This is faith's essence—trusting God's word enough to obey without seeing the outcome. He left the familiar (Ur, a sophisticated city) for the unknown (Canaan) based solely on God's promise. Faith acts on God's word before seeing fulfillment.

Historical Context

Abraham's call came in Ur of the Chaldees (Genesis 12:1), requiring him to leave family, culture, comfort, and security. His obedience became the pattern for all who walk by faith, not sight.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What is God calling you to obey without knowing the full outcome?

2. How does Abraham's example encourage you to trust God's word over visible circumstances?

Interlinear Text

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|-------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------|-------------|----------------|-------|
| Πίστει | καλούμενος | Ἀβραὰμ | ὕπηκουσεν | ἐξῆλθεν | εἰς | τὸν |
| By faith | when he was called | Abraham | obeyed | he went out | for | G3588 |
| G4102 | G2564 | G11 | G5219 | G1831 | G1519 | |
| τόπον | ὃν | ἤμελλεν | λαμβάνειν | εἰς | κληρονομίαν | καὶ |
| a place | which | he should after | receive | for | an inheritance | and |
| G5117 | G3739 | G3195 | G2983 | G1519 | G2817 | G2532 |
| ἐξῆλθεν | μὴ | ἐπιστάμενος | ποῦ | ἔρχεται | | |
| he went out | not | knowing | whither | he went | | |
| G1831 | G3361 | G1987 | G4226 | G2064 | | |

Additional Cross-References

1 Peter 1:22 (Parallel theme): Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

Genesis 12:7 (Parallel theme): And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.

Romans 10:16 (Faith): But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?

Genesis 22:18 (Parallel theme): And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

Hebrews 11:33 (Faith): Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

Isaiah 41:2 (Parallel theme): Who raised up the righteous man from the east, called him to his foot, gave the nations before him, and made him rule over kings? he gave them as the dust to his sword, and as driven stubble to his bow.

Isaiah 51:2 (References Abraham): Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah that bare you: for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him.

Romans 6:17 (Parallel theme): But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

Romans 1:5 (Faith): By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:

Genesis 17:8 (Parallel theme): And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

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