

Study of Hebrews #50
“Abraham’s Faith: Its Power and Promises”
Text: Hebrews 11:11-16

I. Review: Abraham followed the call of God and anticipated the city of God.

1. In total and instant obedience
2. With unquestioning and absolute trust
3. As a patient and determined sojourner

II. Introduction: Abraham’s faith or Sarah’s faith? (v. 11)

III. The power of faith: God’s divine covenant will be fully realized (v. 12).

IV. The promises of faith (vs. 13-16)

1. God’s divine city has been beautifully prepared.
2. God’s divine pleasure will be wonderfully enjoyed.

V. Conclusion – a final word

QUOTES

1. Albert Mohler:

- *As Christians ... we cannot place our ultimate satisfaction and hope in the promises and pleasures that this world has to offer. We must live by faith, recognizing that one day we will experience a joy that is greater than any joy we can know here in this life.*

- *Our cities, our homes, and the comforts of this life are fleeting... The sandcastles of this world must not distract us from the heavenly city that awaits. In that city we put our hope.*

2. Erick Erickson:

God, being a merciful God, often allows those who reject Him to have a great life in this world. It will be, after all, the best they ever have it. For believers, this world is the worst they will ever have it.

3. Charles Spurgeon:

There is nothing on earth that really has a foundation. Even those buildings that seem most firm will be dissolved and burned up in the last general fire.

4. Simon Kistemaker:

- *Therefore, to translate the idiom as “power to conceive” is contrary to linguistic usage. It fails to do justice to the original text and appears to be an accommodation to the presence of the name Sarah.*
- *Perhaps we should understand the words “and Sarah herself was barren” to be a parenthetical thought of the author. If the words referring to Sarah had not been in the text, no one would have difficulty translating and interpreting the text. Verse 11 expresses the thought that Abraham “was enabled to become a father” and is a natural introduction to verse 12. To delete the clause about Sarah is unthinkable because of manuscript support for these words. But to understand it as a parenthetical comment is feasible and sensible.*

5. Brian Cosby:

For believers, the eternal state is characterized by eternal communion with God with the great cloud of witnesses (Heb. 12:1) in a renewed creation as the culmination of God’s redemptive work through Christ. It is described as one of perfect joy, peace, and holiness. Believers will experience the fullness of their salvation, living in the favorable presence of God in transformed and glorified new heaven and new earth. This state is often referred to as “eternal life,” a concept not merely of endless duration but also of quality – a life that is truly realized and fulfilled, with complete joy and in unbroken fellowship with God.

6. Kent Hughes:

No higher tribute could be paid to any mortal. But God proudly claims whoever trusts and obeys him, and they can humbly insert their name in the divine proclamation, “I am the God of _____!”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:

- **Phil. 4:4; Rom. 4:19; Gen. 15:1-6; Gen. 18:12; Gal. 3:23-31**
- **John 14:1-3; Rom. 8:30; Phil. 3:12-14**
- **Ps. 18:19; Ps. 22:8; Ps. 41:11; Ps. 44:3**
- **Ps. 39:12**