

Heroes – Abraham

Hebrews 11:1-3

1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. 3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. NKJV

Hebrews 12:1-2

1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us **lay aside every weight**, and the **sin** which so easily ensnares us, **and let us run with endurance** the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. NKJV

- Faith strips off every weight
- Faith says no to sin
 - once God convicts you of something you choose to turn or continue
 - He will not convict you of something you already know
 - Well I don't feel convicted
- Faith runs with endurance
- Faith focuses on Jesus
- Faith focuses on the lives of others who have lived by it
- Seek those things where Christ is – **Colossians 3:1**

Romans 4:1-3

1 What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? "**Abraham believed God**, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." NKJV

- Faith comes through righteousness
- Righteousness based on God's goodness
- God is good, faithful and in control
- We must believe that God wants a personal relationship with us

Genesis 12:1-3

1 Now the LORD had said to Abram:

"Get out of your country, from your family

And from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. 2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.

3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." NKJV

- The first step in trusting God is to leave the ordinary
- Stop trusting the things we're accustomed to
- Get out of your past identity
- His desire is to bless us – so we can bless others
- His desire is for us to trust His protection and provision
- When we act on what God shows us He will show us more
- Use what you know

Genesis 12:4-5

4 So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. 5 Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of Canaan. NKJV

- Partial obedience is disobedience
- Disobedience hinders the blessings of God
- If I know something he wont show me again
 - Integrity of heart

Genesis 12:7-8

7 Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. 8 And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; there he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD. NKJV

- Am I in the habit of worship?
- Is the Lord visiting me?
- Bethel – House (Dwelling) of God
- Honesty, surrender and adoration

- There was contention between Lot's men and Abraham's men
- Do you have that one relationship that drags you away from God's best?

Genesis 13:5-6, 8-11

5 Lot also, who went with Abram, had flocks and herds and tents. 6 Now the land was not able to support them, that they might dwell together, for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together.

8 So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we are brethren. 9 Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me. If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left." 10 And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere (before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar. 11 Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east. And they separated from each other. NKJV

There comes a time when you need to separate from those who can not go where you are going. Carnal (natural) living and faith cause friction. Sometimes this can be internal

If we are constantly looking at natural circumstance we may be headed for disappointment

- Abram let Lot choose
- Would I give to someone else know God will care for me?

Lot "pitched his tent" got closer and closer
Their filthy conduct tormented his righteous soul

– 2 Peter 2:8

Genesis 13:14-18

14 And the LORD said to Abram, **after Lot had separated from him:** "Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are — northward, southward, eastward, and westward; 15 for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever. 16 And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered. 17 Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you." 18 Then Abram moved his tent, and went and dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and built an altar there to the LORD. NKJV

- After Lot was gone – lift up your eyes
- God is able to do beyond what we can imagine
- The plan of God is full of surprise and exploration
- His dreams for you can not be numbered
- Get a vision for your life – live it by faith

God's Covenant with Abraham

Genesis 15:1

1 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." NKJV

- After what things?
- Abraham rescues Lot and receives blessings
- Abraham builds an altar and worships
- He gives a tithe of all – **Genesis 14:18-20**
- Is God my shield and reward?
- Abundant compensation

Genesis 15:4-6

4 And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." 5 Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." 6 And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness. NKJV

- The word of the Lord comes through times of worship and surrender
- God is calling us to dream with Him
- Beyond your natural circumstance
 - what's in your hand?
- Will I release what means so much to me?
- Will I trust the Lord?

When discouragement comes we must remind ourselves of the faithfulness of God

What God does for one He'll do for another – Acts 10:34

Genesis 15:7-8

7 Then He said to him, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it." 8 And he said, "Lord GOD, how shall I know that I will inherit it?" NKJV

- Am I bold enough to ask God for a promise?
- Will I ask God to get personal with me?
- Will I draw near?
- Will I make the Covenant personal?

Genesis 15:17-18

17 And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a **burning torch** that passed between those pieces. 18 On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram. NKJV

- God places great value on His word
- Sooner or later you need to know what it says
- God is a God of covenant
- His covenant can not be broken
- He will always honor His word
 - Burning torch (Holy Spirit)

Hebrews 7:20-22

20 And inasmuch as He was not made priest without an oath 21(for they have become priests without an oath, but He with an oath by Him who said to Him:

"The LORD has sworn and will not relent,

'You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek'), 22 by so much more **Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant.** NKJV

- We have a guarantee
- The covenant we have is a sure foundation
- Do not give up
- Do not quit
- Do not become **disappointed**
- Stir yourself up – that's faith

Genesis 16:1-2

1 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. And she had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar. 2 So Sarai said to Abram, "See now, the LORD has restrained me from bearing children. Please, go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her." And Abram heeded the voice of Sarai. NKJV

- It is never good to help God out in His plan for us
- Remember He is developing Character
- Abraham was used to making things happen
- He knew how to provide for himself
- He had character flaws that needed to be dealt with
 - God wants us to see He will do it
- God remains faithful even in our weaknesses
- God didn't give up on Abram
- He won't give up on you

Genesis 17:1-4

1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless. 2 And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly." 3 Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying: 4 "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations. NKJV

The blessings of God come through faithfulness and obedience

Genesis 17:5-6 NKJV

5 No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations. 6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.

- Abram – Father
- Abraham – Father of multitudes

Genesis 17:15-16

15 Then God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name.

16 And I will bless her and also give you a son by her; then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall be from her." NKJV

- Sarai – Captain, keeper
- Sarah – Princess or Lady

Slide:

- Has God changed your name?
- Has your life taken a change?
- Are you aware of His plan?
- Are you pursuing His Plan?