

Abraham

- **1. When God called he went.**
- *By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. Heb. 11:8-10*
- **2. When God gave a hard command; he did it.**
Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God. Jas. 2:21-24

The Glory Abraham Gave to God

- God, who gives life to the dead and **calls those things which do not exist as though they did;** 18 8 Who in hope **believed against hope**, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be." 19 And **without being weakened in faith he considered his own body, now as good as dead** (since he was about a hundred years old), **and the deadness of Sarah's womb.** 20 He **did not waver at the promise of God** through unbelief, but was **strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,** 21 and being **fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.** 22 And therefore "it was accounted to him for righteousness." Rom 4:17-22

He never Wavered but Believed

- *God calls things that don't exist as though they did*
- *Abraham believed against hope by:*
- *Considering the facts – His body and Sarah's body*
- *Did not waver at the promise thru unbelief*
- *Strengthened in faith giving glory to God*
- *Fully convinced God could do what He said*
- *This was accounted to him as righteousness.*

Never Wavered But Believed

- *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For they that say such things make it manifest that they are seeking after a country of their own. 15 And if indeed they had been mindful of that (country) from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But now they desire a better (country), that is, a heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed of them, to be called their God; for he hath prepared for them a city. Heb. 11:13-16*

Never Wavered But Believed

- We too haven't received the promises.
- Do we see them so strongly we confess we are strangers and pilgrims on the earth.
- Are we **seeking** a country of our own.
- *epizeteo to search (inquire) for; intensively, to demand, to crave:*
- Are we mindful of the country we came out of? 15
But now they **desire** a better (country),
- *orego, to stretch oneself, reach after something, and hence to covet, long after, desire, try to gain,*
- Give glory to God ... God is not ashamed to be called their God.

Can we Let Go

- In our youth, we had hopes and dreams
- Thought if we could reach them we'd be happy.
- One by one these dreams we learned these dreams were a mirage...
- Hoping for permanent things in a temporary world.
- Ecclesiastes warns us about the vanity of this transient and temporary world.
- At some point ... If we want to be content and happy we have to let our dreams of happiness go and replace them with new dreams of happiness in the future.

This is Exactly What God Seeks

- As see our bodies decay and all our dreams vanish
- *Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. 2Cor 4:16-18*
- This is what Abraham and all who die in faith learned to do and it gave God glory

“Expecting” and “Eagerly Waiting?”

- For the **earnest expectation** of the creation **eagerly waits** for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. ... 3 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even **we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body**. 24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, **we eagerly wait for it with perseverance**. Rom. 8:19-25

God asked for this Many Times

- For the earnest expectation¹ of the creation eagerly waits² for the revealing of the sons of God.
- *1 apokaradokía*, ...**that which one looks forward to with eagerness and desire - 'what one eagerly expects, eager expectancy, eager desire.'**
- *2 apekdechomai* a: to **await eagerly or expectantly for some future event - 'to look forward eagerly, to await expectantly.'**
- God is watching ... waiting for the glory as He did for Abraham

Eagerly Waiting

- *For our citizenship is in heaven, from **which we also eagerly wait** for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself. Phil 3:20-21*
- *apekdechomai a: to await eagerly or expectantly for some future event - 'to look forward eagerly, to await expectantly.'*

Eagerly Waiting

- *And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, 28 so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who **eagerly wait for Him** He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation. Heb 9:27-28*
- apekdechomai a: to **await eagerly or expectantly** for some future event - 'to look forward eagerly, to await expectantly.'

Looking For

- *looking for** and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, *look for** new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 14 Therefore, beloved, *looking forward** to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; 2 Peter 3:11-15
- * *prosdokáō* "to wait for," "to expect," "to look for" someone or something, The tension of waiting as fear or as hope is very much to the fore. (Kittel, TDWNT NT:4328)

“Hastening”

- *looking for* and *hastening* the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?
- *speudō* ... to be *eager to do something, with the implication of readiness to expend energy and effort* - 'to be eager, eagerness, devotion.'

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- *in hope believed against hope,*
- *He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief*
- *strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,*
- *being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.*
- *And therefore "it was accounted to him for righteousness."*
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- *died in faith, not having received the promises,*
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- *confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims*
- *they are seeking after a country of their own.*
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- *would have had opportunity to return.*
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- *yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.*
- *our light affliction, which is but for a moment,*
- *working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,*
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- *but at the things which are not seen.*
- *For the things which are seen are temporary,*
- *but the things which are not seen are eternal. 2Cor*
4:16-18

The First Steps

if you do not **believe** that I am He, you will die in your sins." Jn. 8:24

unless you **repent** you will all likewise perish. Lk. 13:5

if you **confess** with your mouth the Lord Jesus and **believe** in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. Rom. 10:9-10

Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who **believes** and **is baptized** will be saved; Mk. 16:15-16

Repent, and let every one of you **be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins Ats 2:38

If we **confess our sins**, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.