

Faith Christian Fellowship
February 5, 2017
The Way of Faith
2: Take my wife, please!

TEXT: Romans 4:11-12, 16 Hebrews 11:8-9

As the people of God, everything we have is extended to us by God's grace. The whole creation is a gift from Him, of which we have made a mess. The breath you draw is by His grace – if He was not gracious you would be toast.

The Lord spoke that we need to build our faith this year and gave some interesting instructions. Last time we took up Abraham's departure from Ur and Haran – leaving idols behind.

- 1) **Reminder:** Faith has three basic components:
 - a) Heart content - keep your heart Pr 4:23 / feed the heart / Matt 12:34 ...for whatever is in your heart determines what you say.
 - b) Tongue - out of the abundance / no man can tame V. 8 / two springs: James 3:2-15
 - c) Actions – no dead faith - James 2:26
- 2) **Faith obeys without seeing**
 - a) To a land that I will show you.
 - a.i) Not a land that **you** are looking for
 - a.ii) Not a land **you** have envisioned.
 - a.iii) You will know it when you get there.
 - b) God visited Abram and let him know this was it!
 - b.i) Verse 7. An appearance from Jehovah!!!
 - (b.i.1) Presence marks places
 - (b.i.2) His presence in us tells us when we have arrived with a jolt of peace and joy. (I'll never forget walking on to the Rhema campus.)
 - b.ii) Then Abram kept moving. Why? He stopped between Bethel (House of God) and Hai (heap of ruins) How often do we stop short of living in the presence to stay in sight (comfort) of the ruins we left behind?
 - c) He continued in Canaan, but always moving, heading south (Negev), which was desert. (Sometimes moving to meet our own expectations is not the way to God's best)

3) **God's will is not always easy.**

- a) There was a famine in the land.
 - a.i) Don't be led by circumstances! Abram was in the will of God, yet there was hardship.
 - a.ii) Difficulties come to all of us, even when (especially when?) we are smack in the middle of God's will
 - (a.ii.1) Satan comes immediately to steal the Word - Mark 4:19
 - (a.ii.2) We have sowed bad crops – Galatians 6:7
 - (a.ii.3) We live in a cursed earth – Adam fouled it up. Gen 3 / Jn 16:33 (Note the first step to deliverance: cheer up!)
- b) Learn to stay in Canaan until God says go.
- c) Abraham fled to Egypt and got in trouble
 - c.i) He did not do this out of rebellion, he did it out of fear and lack. He was trying to meet his own needs. Gen 12:10.
 - c.ii) He shows part his character by asking his wife to lie. Not desire to do evil or even disobey God, but self-preservation fear.
 - c.iii) Human scheming and manipulation is always wrong and counterproductive. Shut your head off and listen to your spirit. Romans 8:16
- d) God intervened on behalf of His people, even when they were in a self-made mess. **This is grace!!!!**
 - d.i) Learn to recognize the difference: correction and conviction versus condemnation. 2 Corinthians 7:6-11 Verse 11 MSG And now, isn't it wonderful all the ways in which this distress has goaded you closer to God?... Looked at from any angle, you've come out of this with purity of heart.
 - d.ii) God can use even the ungodly to plop you back where He wants you to finish the plan and purpose for your life. If you keep winding up back in the same desert with all your stuff and your clueless nephew, consider obeying God!

**No matter how bad you have messed it up,
He can and will turn it around.
Quit flogging yourself...**

learn the lesson...

and get on with God!

Hebrews 12:12-13