

I. Faith Christian Fellowship  
 II. April 23, 2017  
 III. The Way of Faith  
 IV. 9: Faith's Fulfilled Purpose

**TEXT:** Romans 4:11-12, 16 / James 2:17-24 faith without works is unfulfilled

We are building our faith this year. We are following the way of faith of father Abraham, his progressive obedience, staying put when it's tough, and lining up with what He told you. We saw the responsibilities of blessing. We saw the responsibilities of blessing, and two important questions to the life of faith. We saw the dangers of doing it ourselves, and examined our part in the covenant. We committed to a covenant kind of prayer. Today, your faith is not just about you.

- 1) **Reminder:** Faith has three basic components:
  - a) Heart content - keep your heart. Prov 4:23 / Matt 12:34 ...for whatever is in your heart determines what you say.
  - b) Tongue –Your tongue determines your course. James 3:2-15.
  - c) Actions – Faith without works is useless. James 2:26
  - d) **The purpose of faith is never just you and your blessing. It is always about expanding the Kingdom and releasing the purposes of God in the lives of others.**
- 2) Abraham was tested Genesis 22
  - a) We don't like the idea of being tested, and we certainly don't like the idea of God testing us. Whether we like it or not, it is Bible.
  - b) Some tests are brought by Satan to steal the Word of God. Passing them increases power. Mark 4:15 / Luke 4:1-2, 14
  - c) **Some tests are tests of obedience implemented by God.** The test is for our benefit. It locates us and prepares us for the next step. It always has purpose.
  - d) All trials of our faith have good effects if we pass them: James 1:2-4 / 1 Peter 1:7 / Dt 8:1-3
  - e) **Faith without a test is a theory.**
- 3) Abraham obeyed God and his faith fulfilled its purpose
  - a) James 2:17-24. Notice the terms "perfect", and "fulfilled" as they are used to describe Abraham's actions.
  - b) Gen 15:6 happened a long time before Isaac. But the promise was not fulfilled, his faith was not perfect.

- c) Genesis 22 – the test: will you obey?
  - c.i) The test was of willingness to give up his most precious thing.
  - c.ii) Offer him as a burnt offering to the Lord on the mountain "Moriah" where God is seen.
  - c.iii) He was immediately obedient.
    - (c.iii.1) After 3 days, he apparently saw something which let him know this was the mountain. He told the helpers that they would both be back. He had seen a resurrection and assumed it to be Isaac. Heb 11:17-19 / John 8:56 and Gal 3:8
  - c.iv) Abraham set off by faith to offer his Son. He took wood, fire and knife, and Isaac has to bear it up the hill. He prophesied "My Son God will provide himself a lamb"
  - c.v) The 30-year-old son obeyed the father and allowed himself to be bound and placed on the altar. Phil 2:8
  - c.vi) Jehovah-Jireh stepped in and provided a ram as a substitute. The world waited for the Lamb. John 1:29, 36
- d) Abraham's perfected faith was fulfilled. Gen 22:12,16-18. The blessing of the world (the coming of Christ as our substitute) was made possible by the obedience of Abraham.
- e) The rest of the plan immediately started to unfold. The Bride was born: V. 20-24.
- f) Your faith has a purpose to be fulfilled. When God asks, give quickly. When He says move, don't hesitate. The trying of your faith will always produce abundant blessing if you obey.
- g) James 2:22 NLT You see, his faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete.
  - g.i) God saved you, but not just to save you.
  - g.ii) God wants to heal you, but not just to heal you
  - g.iii) God wants to prosper you, but not just to prosper you.
  - g.iv) He has a world-touching **perfect** plan that impacts many beyond your reach, and that can only be **fulfilled** by your obedience.

**Obedience is an act of faith; disobedience is the result of unbelief.**  
 Edwin Louis Cole