

## A Proud Father

Ponder: Why would God be proud of me?

Scripture: “Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them” (Hebrews 11:17b, NKJV).

I could tell by the way they looked at me when my parents were ashamed of me. It hurt worse than getting a spanking. On the other hand, what could be better than when they were proud of me? A tangible reward was icing on the cake, but it was enough just to know I had made them proud.

God is proud of his faithful children. We’re not talking about pride in the sinful sense of arrogance or haughtiness. Rather, this pride is simply the opposite of being ashamed.

Hebrews chapter eleven has been called “Inspiration’s Hall of Fame.” We routinely refer to the great characters mentioned there as “heroes of faith.” People like Noah, Abraham, and Moses were not sinlessly perfect, but they and others demonstrated Biblical faith – not merely believing something in their minds, but responding to God’s word in trusting obedience. Because they did that, God was not ashamed to be called their God.

Why was God proud (unashamed) of these people? It all goes back to faith (trusting obedience). “These all died in faith, not having received the promises” Hebrews 11:13). The promises certainly would include those made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Genesis 12:1-3 et. al.), but would stretch back even earlier to the first Messianic promise in Genesis 3:15. These faithful servants of God didn’t live to see the coming of Christ, the blessings of the Christian age, or the glory of eternity in Heaven. They did, however, “see” them through the eye of faith, were confident God would fulfill His word, and freely confessed that this world was not their home (Hebrews 11:13). That motivated them to trust God and obey His will.

In view of these great examples of faith (trusting obedience), the Hebrews writer urges us to maintain our faith in God and His promises (Hebrews 12:1). How awful, if Jesus were ashamed of us on the day of judgment! But He will be proud of us if we trust and obey!