

## Abraham: Obedient Faith

Ponder: How far are you willing to go in walking by faith?

Scripture: “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, NKJV).

We love the great old songs: “Trust and Obey,” “Living by Faith,” and you can extend the list indefinitely. Do we really understand, though, what it is to trust and obey, to live by faith?

What if you had been in Abraham’s sandals when, in Genesis 12, God called him to leave his country and family – would you have gone? Archaeologists have found the site of Ur of the Chaldees, where Abraham lived, in what is now Iraq. It was highly civilized, culturalized, and wealthy, with thriving agriculture. Abraham would have had no material need to leave. And God didn’t even tell him where he was going! Human wisdom would say, “No! Stay where you are!” So why did Abraham leave? Simply because God told him to go. He trusted and obeyed.

Decades after arriving in Canaan, Abraham and Sarah finally had the son God had promised. But God tested Abraham’s faith once again, telling him to offer Isaac, that beloved son of promise, as a burnt offering. How could the world be blessed through Abraham’s seed if Isaac was dead? It was humanly impossible! But Abraham trusted and obeyed. “By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac . . . concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead” (Heb. 11:17-19). Had Abraham ever seen someone raised from the dead? No, but he walked by faith, not by sight. Leaving his servants at the base of the mountain, he told them, “the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you” (Gen. 22:5). Not “I” will come back, but “we” will come back. Abraham knew Isaac would be with him.

20-20 hindsight makes it easy to see God’s hand guiding faithful Abraham. But Abraham lived in the present, and so do we. God leads us through His word. Will we trust and obey as Abraham did, even when it goes against our human wisdom?

Song: “Living By Faith”

Prayer: Wise Heavenly Father, please forgive us when we foolishly rely on our own wisdom; help us to trust and obey. In Jesus’ name, Amen.