

Discussion Notes for Hebrews 11 (Part 3) :8–19 • Faith that sees beyond this world

Theme: Once again, the reason this author is emphasizing the life of faith in this chapter, is because the people he was writing to needed to be encouraged because of all the hardships and persecutions they were enduring. This chapter serves as a reminder that the people of God have always been called upon to live by faith.

- This section begins by highlighting the life of Abraham. What challenges does **verse 8** tell us about that may have made Abraham's faith difficult to hold onto?
- What was Abraham's obedience based on according to **verse 8**?
- Reading through Genesis we see that Abraham's faith certainly wasn't perfect. In fact, he had some very real failures in the faith department? What does this tell you about how God sees our failures?
- **Something to ponder:**
- **Verses 9 and 10** speak of Abraham's ultimate aim. What was it?
- What kind of things does God use occasionally to help us loosen our grip on this world?
- **Verses 11 and 12** speaks of Sarah along with Abraham. What role did faith play in Sarah's life?
- **Read verses 13 through 16.** How do you think these verses can encourage believers who are enduring persecution for their faith?
- What is the promise contained in **verse 16**?
- **Verse 17-19** recollects what was probably the greatest test of faith that confronted Abraham. Why do you think God referred to Isaac as Abraham's "only son" when he had another son (Ishmael)?
- How did Abraham's faith in God's promises give him the strength to even consider offering up his son as a sacrifice to God?
- What is the most important thing you learned about faith from this study?