

Abraham Obeyed by Faith

Lorne Sanny

I. Introduction.

A. Personal testimony - Lorne thought that he trusted Christ at an early age, but he was not sure so he later committed his life to Christ.

B. Eventually he got a Christian group going, but he was not at the time being disciplined or guided in his ministry. He met Dawson Trotman who helped him and then began to meet one-on-one with him.

II. A lesson from Hebrews 11.

A. Whatever day it is in history and whatever problems, God always starts with a man to carry out his ideas. (Ezekiel 22:20)

B. God picks a man and makes a hero out of him. (John 1:6)

C. God wants to make a hero out of you. There is not a man that God does not want to make a hero out of - someone who is admired for their qualities.

D. Hebrews 11 is God's hall of fame.

1. Abraham is included because of his faith.

2. So too the others in the list are chosen because of their faith.

3. The number one reason that a hero is chosen is because he is in touch with ultimate reality - these men were in touch with ultimate reality by faith, which is God Himself. (Hebrews 11:6, Romans 4:3)

E. To believe God is to take Him seriously.

1. David was a hero because he was struck that anyone could defy God. (Isaiah 51:12-13)

2. Dawson Trotman was a hero of his generation - the secret of his success was that he was a man who believed God.

3. We are to imitate the faith of our leaders. (Hebrews 13:7)

4. When there is faith, something is done.

F. By faith, Abraham went out. The Christian life is a going thing. (Genesis 12:1, Matthew 5, 18, 28:18-19)

III. The fine print: Abraham did not know where he was going.

A. God rarely shows us very far ahead - we have to be willing to trust Him.

B. We must surrender ourselves now where the Lord has us in the present. Then we must surrender when we are led to the next place. We have to start where we are at.

C. The heart of the business is facing life's uncertainty with life's certainty - God.

D. The Christian life is a series of surrenders to the will of God.

E. The Christian life is such a fantastic adventure because we do not know where we are going or how long we will live.

Application questions.

1. How does God carry out His ideas or His work? How is Abraham an example of this?

2. The speaker says that surrender is a step-by-step process along the journey that God takes us on. What is comforting about this? What is challenging?

3. What areas of your life are you withholding from God? How will you put your faith into action and appropriate God's power to surrender these areas to Him?
