

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** Six Principles to Fortify Your Faith

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Hebrews 11:8-13

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #2390

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Charles Haddon Spurgeon said, “A little faith will bring your soul to Heaven; a great faith will bring Heaven to your soul.”
  - i) Would you like to have great faith?
- b) When we come to Jesus Christ in salvation, God enrolls us in the school of faith.
  - i) Life is the classroom.
  - ii) The Bible is the textbook.
  - iii) The apostles and the prophets in the Bible are the professors.
  - iv) Abraham would be the dean in this school of faith.
    - (1) In the New Testament, he is called “the father of them that believe.”
- c) Much of Hebrews 11, which speaks of the champions of faith, is given over to the life of Abraham.
  - i) Hebrews 11:8-13
- d) Romans 4:11
- e) Hebrews 11:6
  - i) Faith is not incidental.
  - ii) Without faith, it is impossible to please God.
    - (1) If you please God, it doesn't matter whom you displease.
    - (2) If you displease God, it doesn't matter whom you please.
- f) Faith is the mark of a Christian.
  - i) Christians were called believers before they were called Christians.
- g) It is our chief duty to believe God.
  - i) John 6:29
- h) The supreme evil is unbelief.
  - i) The greatest sin is not murder, pillage or tyranny.
  - ii) The greatest sin is unbelief.
  - iii) The reason that people are lost, condemned and spend an eternity in Hell is not because of a sin they've committed, but because they will not believe.
    - (1) John 3:18
- i) Unbelief is the source of all other sins.
  - i) Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden because they did not believe God.
- j) The Christian life is to be lived by faith.
  - i) Hebrews 10:38
  - ii) We will never succeed in our Christian lives without believing God.
- k) Abraham was a pagan.
  - i) He lived in a place called Ur of the Chaldees when God spoke to him.
  - ii) He was 75 years of age when he enrolled in the school of faith.
    - (1) A person cannot be too wicked or too old to step into the life of faith.
- l) Abraham left all to go to a country he had never seen.
  - i) God didn't tell him where he was going to go or how long it was going to take to get there.

- ii) God didn't tell Abraham what he was going to do when he got there or how long he would stay there.
  - iii) God just told him to go, and Abraham obeyed.
  - m) Abraham was not a vagabond, and he was not looking for home.
    - i) He was a pilgrim headed home.
  - n) What was written about Abraham was written for our sake.
    - i) Today's message will share six powerful principles from the life of Abraham to help us have dynamic faith.
- 2) THE VOICE PRINCIPLE: WE MUST HEAR GOD (HEBREWS 11:8)
- a) Hebrews 11:8
    - i) Abraham heard the voice of God.
    - ii) He was called.
  - b) Romans 10:17
    - i) We must hear God.
  - c) When we read about Abraham in the book of Genesis, we see over and over again that the Word of the Lord came to him.
  - d) Genesis 12:1-3
    - i) We see the root of faith in this passage:
      - (1) Abraham heard the voice of God.
      - (2) God said, "I will."
  - e) Genesis 11:1-4
    - i) In Genesis 12:1-3, God says, "I will."
    - ii) In this passage in Genesis 11, the people say, "Let us."
      - (1) The people said, "Let us make us a name."
      - (2) In Genesis 12, God said, "Abraham, I will make your name great."
    - iii) Many people today are trying to build their utopias, but faith hears the voice of God when He says, "I will."
  - f) How do we hear the voice of God?
    - i) So often when we pray, we say, "Lord, if it is Your will..."
      - (1) If we don't know the will of God, then this is a good way to pray.
      - (2) But the best way to pray is when we can say, "Lord, this is Your will, and I stand on it."
        - (a) 1 John 5:14
        - (3) Great faith does not come from guessing at the will of God.
    - ii) Abraham heard the voice of God in a supernatural way.
      - (1) The Lord appeared to him through an angel.
        - (a) Genesis 12:7
        - (b) This is not normally how we hear the voice of God today.
      - (2) Exodus 3:2
        - (a) God spoke to Moses out of a burning bush.
        - (b) God spoke to Moses supernaturally.
      - (3) Acts 9:1-6

- (a) The Lord appeared to Saul, who became the Apostle Paul, on the road to Damascus in a brightness and a voice from Heaven.
- (4) Acts 10:9-16
  - (a) An angel came to Simon Peter on a rooftop in a vision.
- (5) All of these named above heard the Word of God in a supernatural way, but this is not the norm for us today.
  - (a) This does not mean that we have less advantage, but we have a greater advantage.
- iii) Hebrews 1:1-2
  - (1) God speaks to us by His Son.
- iv) The Bible teaches that we have three things:
  - (1) We have the written Word of God.
  - (2) We have the mind of Christ.
  - (3) We have the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
    - (a) These three things give us a greater advantage than those who lived in Old Testament times.
      - (i) The Old Testament characters (before they had the Bible and before they knew what we know by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit) had to wait for God to give an open revelation or vision.
      - (ii) Today, we can open the Bible and hear the inspired, infallible and inerrant Word of God.
    - (b) When we are born again, we receive the mind of Christ.
      - (i) 1 Corinthians 2:14-16
        - 1. The natural man is the unsaved man.
        - 2. Those who are unsaved cannot understand us, but we understand them.
      - (ii) When our hearts are clean, our motive is clear and pure, and when we're walking in the Spirit, we can assume that what we desire is the will of God.
        - 1. It ought to be the normal condition of every Christian that we know the will of God.
        - 2. If we say or do something outside the will of God, then the Holy Spirit will convict us.
        - 3. If we are walking in the Spirit and God has a different plan for us, then God will turn us around.
          - a. Acts 16:7-10
- g) It is honoring to God when we believe Him and live in confidence.
  - i) If you are in doubt about something, wait on God.
    - (1) Don't run ahead of God.
    - (2) Proverbs 4:18
  - ii) If you are questioning whether or not God is speaking to you, then ask Him to just keep speaking and confirm it in your heart.
- h) If we are not living by what we already know in the Bible, then we are very hypocritical to ask God to guide us.

- i) Why should God give us more light when we're not obeying the revealed Word of God that's in the Bible?
  - i) We have something better than Abraham.
  - i) Abraham did not have the revealed Word of God like we have.
  
- 3) THE VENTURE PRINCIPLE: OBEY WHAT YOU KNOW (HEBREWS 11:8)
  - a) Hebrews 11:8
    - i) Abraham heard and obeyed.
  - b) Abraham didn't know where it was going to end.
    - i) That was none of his business.
    - ii) Our responsibility is not to totally understand but to readily obey.
  - c) Abraham left all that he knew and all that he loved.
    - i) He was going out in sheer obedience.
    - ii) We have to be willing when God speaks to us, whether it makes sense to us or not.
  - d) If we do not obey what we know, then God will not give us more light.
  - e) If you're having a faith problem, then you are probably having an obedience problem.
    - i) Is there a confession that you need to make?
    - ii) Is there restitution that you need to perform?
    - iii) Is there a gift that you need to give?
    - iv) Is there a testimony that you need to offer?
    - v) Is there a place you need to go?
    - vi) If you want faith, then hear from God and obey God.
  
- 4) THE VALUE PRINCIPLE: ESTABLISH PRIORITIES (HEBREWS 11:9-10)
  - a) Hebrews 11:9-10
    - i) The word "tabernacles" in this passage means "tents."
    - ii) Abraham was a stranger away from home, and he was a pilgrim headed home.
      - (1) Canaan was not his home at that time.
    - iii) He was living in a tent, and he didn't put the tent pegs down too deeply.
      - (1) His motto was, "This world is not my home; I'm just passing through."
      - (2) Abraham had a different priority.
  - b) The reason many of us don't have faith is because our priorities are wrong.
    - i) We think that faith is some way to get our will done in Heaven, when faith is actually God's way to get Heaven's will done on Earth.
    - ii) Matthew 6:10
  - c) Our citizenship is in Heaven, and we must not get too attached to this world.
    - i) Philippians 3:20
      - (1) "Our conversation" in this verse means "our behavior," "our citizenship."
  - d) If we live for this world, then we will not have faith.
    - i) The Bible warns about friendship with the world.

- (1) James 4:4
    - (a) “Enmity” here means “warfare.”
  - (2) Are you worldly?
  - (3) God will not give faith to His enemies.
    - (a) A friend of this world is an enemy of God.
  - (4) Abraham was not a friend of the world.
  - ii) A person who becomes a friend of this world will begin to live like the world.
    - (1) 1 John 2:15-17
    - (2) They begin to love the world.
  - iii) Then, they are conformed to the world.
    - (1) Romans 12:2
    - (2) We need the mind of Christ to know the will of God.
      - (a) But if the world molds us and shapes us, then it is the world that is conforming us.
      - (b) What is conforming you?
  - iv) Then, there is the condemnation with the world.
    - (1) 1 Corinthians 11:32
    - (2) Genesis 13 and 19
      - (a) Abraham’s nephew, Lot, pitched his tent toward Sodom.
      - (b) Lot moved into the world, and he lost everything because he gravitated to the things of the world.
    - (3) We hear much today about the separation of church and state, but the message that also needs to be preached is the separation of church and world.
      - (a) The average Christian today looks like, dresses like and talks like the world.
        - (i) We ought to be different.
        - (b) 2 Corinthians 6:17
  - e) Abraham had a pilgrim character.
    - i) This doesn’t mean that he was a dropout.
      - (1) He was a businessman, he had a family, and he even had to go to war several times.
    - ii) He was not molded by this world.
      - (1) Hebrews 11:10
    - iii) Matthew 6:33
  - f) Without faith, it is impossible to please God.
    - i) Hebrews 11:6
- 5) THE VISION PRINCIPLE: KEEP YOUR FAITH FOCUSED (HEBREWS 11:10)
- a) Hebrews 11:10
    - i) He looked.
  - b) Hebrews 11:13
  - c) It is easy to lose focus and get earthly minded and worldly minded.

- i) Colossians 3:1-2
  - d) Abraham was a man who had a vision, and his vision enabled him to see the invisible.
    - i) Hebrews 11:1
    - ii) Hebrews 11:13
      - (1) They saw things that were not seen.
      - (2) Faith is seeing the invisible.
        - (a) We can by faith see the invisible.
    - iii) 2 Corinthians 4:18
      - (1) The Apostle Paul says that we are looking at what we can't see.
  - e) Faith sees the invisible, knows the unknowable and does the impossible.
  - f) Because of the vision, there is the focus.
  - g) There is a world that is more real than this world, and all the heroes of the faith in Hebrews 11 were people who could see the invisible.
    - i) Many Christians live a life where all they see is what is before them: their house, their car, their jobs, etc.
      - (1) They never get a vision.
      - (2) They never look upward or onward.
  - h) Faith is setting your affection on something that is bigger than for what most of us are living.
- 6) THE VIGILANCE PRINCIPLE: GUARD YOUR HEART (HEBREWS 11:11)
- a) The devil will war against your faith.
  - b) Hebrews 11:11
    - i) God gave Abraham a promise, but both he and Sarah got their eyes off the Lord and made some terrible choices.
      - (1) Abraham went down into Egypt when God had put him in Canaan.
    - ii) God put Abraham's faith to the test, and Abraham failed the test at first.
  - c) God will test our faith.
    - i) A faith that cannot be tested cannot be trusted.
    - ii) 1 Peter 1:7
  - d) It will not always be easy.
    - i) Just because we have faith does not mean that we won't have any problems, heartaches or tears.
  - e) Abraham should have stayed in the land of Canaan, but he returned.
    - i) He came back to the life of faith.
- 7) THE VICTORY PRINCIPLE: ENJOY THE BLESSINGS (HEBREWS 11:11-12)
- a) Hebrews 11:11-12
  - b) God made Abraham's name great.
    - i) He has been a blessing to the world.
    - ii) God gave Abraham the land.
    - iii) From Abraham came the Jewish nation and the prophets.
    - iv) From Abraham came the Bible.

- v) From the lineage of Abraham (in the flesh) came our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- vi) It all came by faith.
- c) There is no way that we'll live in victory apart from faith.
  - i) 1 John 5:4

## 8) CONCLUSION

- a) If we will put these six principles into practice, then our faith will blossom and bloom.
  - i) Abraham was a pagan when God called him.
  - ii) Abraham was also 75 years of age when he got started in the school of faith.
    - (1) Never think that you've missed your opportunity.
- b) If you're not a Christian, God wants to save you.
  - i) The life of faith begins with a step of faith.
  - ii) That step of faith is to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.
- c) Romans 5:1
- d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16