

I. INTRODUCTION.

A. Scripture text: **Isaiah 40:28-31.**

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. [29] He gives strength to the weary, And to *him who* lacks might He increases power. [30] Though youths grow weary and tired, And vigorous young men stumble badly, [31] Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up *with* wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.

B. Hebrews 11:1 is the definition of faith. Without this faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6).

And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

C. This morning's lesson deals with Abraham's faith.

D. There are some things that faith doesn't know; and because of that we must learn how to wait.

II. SOME THINGS ABRAHAM DIDN'T KNOW IN HIS FAITH.

A. Abraham didn't know **where** he was going (Heb. 11:8-10):

By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. [9] By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign *land*, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; [10] for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

1. He dwelled as an alien, looking for another city to call home.

2. Xians are to live like that, citizens of another place (Phil. 3:20; 2Cor. 4:18; 5:1).

(Phil 3:20) For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

(2Cor 4:18) while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal. [5:1] For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

3. The Israelites died in the wilderness because of unbelief. Not having a permanent home was a problem they couldn't handle (Heb. 3:16-19).

For who provoked *Him* when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt *led* by Moses? [17] And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? [18] And to whom did He swear that they should not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? [19] And *so* we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.

4. Our faith must come to realize that the "where" is not here!

5. Faith doesn't have to know where. Faith means knowing how to wait.

Lord, teach me to wait on You!

B. Abraham didn't know **how** God's will, would be accomplished (Heb. 11:11,12):

By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised; [12] therefore, also, there was born of one man, and him as good as dead at that, *as many descendants AS THE STARS OF HEAVEN IN NUMBER, AND INNUMERABLE AS THE SAND WHICH IS BY THE SEASHORE.*

1. Abraham thought he and Sarah were "dead" when came to having children. He didn't know how God would bless him with offspring.

2. Zachariah didn't know how God was going to bless Elizabeth with a child (Lk. 1:18).

And Zacharias said to the angel, "How shall I know this *for certain*? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years."

3. The apostles didn't know how to feed the 5,000. But Jesus said, "You feed them" (Mk. 6:35-37)!

And when it was already quite late, His disciples came up to Him and *began* saying, "The place is desolate and it is already quite late; [36] send them away so that they may go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." [37] But He answered and said to them, "You give them *something* to eat!" And they said^ to Him, "Shall we go and spend two hundred denarii on bread and give them *something* to eat?"

4. Too many times we make decisions only if we have the “how question” answered. But how can it be of faith, if we already know the how?
5. Faith doesn’t have to know how. Faith means knowing how to wait.
Lord, teach me to wait on You!

C. Abraham didn’t know **when** God would fulfill His promises (Heb. 11:13-16):

All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. [14] For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. [15] And indeed if they had been thinking of that *country* from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. [16] But as it is, they desire a better *country*, that is a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.

1. None of the patriarchs saw the promises fulfilled.
2. To operate by sight, is to be faithless (2Cor. 5:7).
for we walk by faith, not by sight--
3. Noah didn’t ask God for a passing shower so show that He could really make it rain before he would begin building the ark.
4. One preacher has said, “The greatest thing is not what we live in, it’s what we look for.” Patience means waiting for as long as it takes, because God’s timing is always perfect (Gal. 6:9).
And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary.
5. Faith doesn’t have to know when. Faith means knowing how to wait.

Lord, teach me to wait on You!

D. Abraham didn’t know **why** God so worked in his life (Heb. 11:17-19):

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac; and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son; [18] it was he to whom it was said, “IN ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS SHALL BE CALLED.” [19] He considered that God is able to raise *men* even from the dead; from which he also received him back as a type.

1. If anyone could ask God, “why?”; it was Abraham. None of this made any sense to him.
2. Habakkuk asked God why God was allowing Assyria (a very sinful nation) overtake Israel (a less sinful nation). God gave His answer in Heb. 1:5.
“Look among the nations! Observe! Be astonished! Wonder! Because *I* am doing something in your days - You would not believe if you were told.

And we know that Habakkuk learned his lesson in Hab. 2:1-3.

I will stand on my guard post And station myself on the rampart; And I will keep watch to see what He will speak to me, And how I may reply when I am reprov'd. [2] Then the LORD answered me and said, “Record the vision And inscribe *it* on tablets, That the one who reads it may run. [3] “For the vision is yet for the appointed time; It hastens toward the goal, and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; For it will certainly come, it will not delay.

3. When tragedy comes and life gets difficult, we often ask “Why?”
4. Faith doesn’t have to know why. Faith means knowing how to wait.

Lord, teach me to wait on You!

III. CONCLUSION.

A. Five areas of life where faith (and waiting) is necessary:

1. Abel had faith in God in his worship. God had taught Abel to wait.
Lord, in our worship, teach us to wait (on You).
2. Enoch had faith in God in his walk. God had taught Enoch to wait.
Lord, in our daily walk, teach us to wait (on You).
3. Noah had faith in God in his work. God had taught Noah to wait.
Lord, in our work, teach us to wait (on You).
4. Moses had faith in God in His leading. God had taught Moses to wait.
Lord, in our relationships, teach us to wait (on You).
5. Joshua had faith in God in his battles. God had taught Joshua to wait.
Lord, in our battles (against sin), teach us to wait (on You).

- B. So before I claim the prize because:
1. ...of how lovingly I worshipped.
 2. ...of how hard I worked.
 3. ...of how straight I walked.
 4. ...of how well I lead.
 5. ...of how valiantly I battled.

LORD, TEACH ME TO WAIT (ON YOU).

- C. Read Isa. 40:28-31.

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. [29] He gives strength to the weary, And to him who lacks might He increases power. [30] Though youths grow weary and tired, And vigorous young men stumble badly, [31] Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.

IV. INVITATION.

- A. Faith doesn't have to know where, how, when, or why.
- B. Faith means knowing how to wait. Lord, teach me to wait.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.