

## Intro

- The mentions of "by faith or through faith" are 18 times
- The people mentioned who did things by faith are 10 different people
- Our Christian life is likened to a walk all through the bible
- Enoch walked with God (Gen 5:22,24)
- Noah walked with God (Gen 6:9)
- Samuel walked with God (1 Sam 8:3; 12:2)
- David walked with God (1 Kings 9:4; 2 Chron 7:17)
- Gal 5:16 Walk in the spirit and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh
- It's a walk of faith (2 Cor 5:7)

~ What is faith? Heb 11:1-4

- Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

~ Genesis passages (The plot is in Genesis) (always use your cross references)

- 15:4-6 – Abraham will have great posterity
- 15:12-21 – God's covenant with Abraham
- 16 – They pre-empted God's plan with Hagar
- 17:19 – God promised a child and God tells Abraham to name him Isaac
- 17:21 – The Lord appears to Abraham and tells next year they will have a child and to name him Isaac
- 18:1-15 – God reaffirms his covenant with Abraham and Sarah hears it and laughs
- 21:1-3 – Isaac is born. Isaac means laughter.

## Text - Outline

### Sarah in Hebrews 11:11:

#### 1 Received Strength

- Obstacle - She was past age. God waited until they were as good as dead physically to give them a child.

#### 2 Delivered a Child

- Obstruction – They failed and monkeyed up the process with Ishmael

#### 3 Judged God Faithful

- Outcome – God proved himself trustworthy

~ Rom 4:21 Abraham was fully persuaded God was faithful. We don't read about Sarah in these passages as they are all about Abraham. Yet we read here in Hebrews 11:11 that Sarah judged God faithful

~ Sarah's Obstacles to Faith

- Received Strength – Circumstances and Condition (Age)
- It was physically impossible – but is anything too hard for the Lord
- They had already failed in taking matters into their own hands

~ Our obstacles to faith

- Heb 11 is filled with impossible circumstances
- Ps 36:5 Thy mercy, O LORD, is in the heavens; and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds.
- Lam 3:22 They (God's mercies) are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.
- Our lives are also filled with impossible circumstances
- God is faithful despite our circumstances
- Why does it seem God waits until the last minute to work at times? Because by this we can do nothing and God can do everything and God proves himself faithful
- God being faithful and trustworthy doesn't mean he's always going to heal, fix problems, rescue us from trouble but what it does mean is that God is with us in that adversity

- 2 Cor 1:1-10 Paul had the sentence of death to teach him to trust God. If God allowed the great apostle Paul to be in dire situations (2 Cor 11 – 26 adversities) then who are we to expect our Christian walk to be like a fairy tale experience?
- Some difficulty is our doing, other's doing and some is God's doing. Why? God is teaching us to depend on him and not ourselves, others or man-made provisions
- The disciples were in a boat that was tossed around that made experienced fishermen scared yet Jesus was in the back of the boat asleep (Matt 8:23-27). Jesus addressed their faith and said, "why are you afraid and of little faith?"
- What was Jesus doing in that stormy boat? Teaching the disciples they can trust him in storms of life
- What was God doing through Job's trials? Teaching to trust God when he purifies his children
- What was Jesus teaching Philip in John 6 when there's conservatively about 20,000 people and they only have 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish? We can trust God for our provision
- What was God teaching Paul in 2 Cor chapters 1 and 11? We can trust God in ministry
- God was teaching Abraham and Sarah to trust Him
- How does it make us feel when we're teaching our children to trust our input, wisdom and experience and they ignore it? Hurt and frustrated that they won't trust us. Well, does it disappoint God when we won't trust him for everything? Sure it does – He wants us to depend on and trust him
- God wants us to trust His word, his ways and his wisdom

The most important thing a person can trust God with is the salvation of their soul

While we're told Sarah judged God faithful she too had her struggles with trusting God. Where do these struggles come from? ~ Why do we lack faith? Eve in Genesis 3 doubted the trustworthiness of God and His word at the serpents beckoning

~ Eve the mother of living brought sin

~ We go back to the first mother – Eve the mother of living (Gen 2:20)

~ She disobeyed God in the garden. In the garden of Eden Satan used the serpent to question what God said so as to think that God wasn't trustworthy. Even then doubting God's trustworthiness took to forbidden fruit and disobeyed God.

~ God in his faithfulness had a plan for Adam and Eve. This plan was a promise and provision for sin

1 Promise (Gen 3:15) A Savior

2 Provision (Gen 3:21) A Sacrifice

~ These both point to Good Friday, a hill called Golgotha – for there the perfect Son of God bore our sin

~ He was our sin bearer because we weren't good enough to atone for our sin/s

~ The cross teaches us that we have a faithful God for on the cross Jesus fulfilled the promise of Gen 3:15

~ Gen 3:15 gives us the protoevangelium – the first mention of the gospel

~ Jesus said if I be lifted up I would draw all men unto me (Jn 12:32)

Rom 2:1-6 God's Righteous Judgment - *Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. 2 But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. 3 And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? 4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? 5 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;*

6 *Who will render to every man according to his deeds:*

~ Will you despise the riches of his goodness, his tolerance against you and his longsuffering toward you?

~ Because of Eve's failure God in his faithfulness had a plan. It was a promise and a provision

## Conclusion

~ If you've never trusted in Christ for salvation look to him in faith and be saved

~ If we're a child of God we can trust God with whatever his providence has allowed in our lives

~ Read John Bunyan's points for anxiety