

# ***“Faith Is For Witnessing”***

Hebrews 11:8-9

January 27, 2019

## **INTRO:**

- **Welcome** to THE BRIDGE... **Let's pray** to begin.
- Welcome to **“Hold On”** - ...the Book of Hebrews
- Welcome to a very special day!
  - **We're going to see the glory of God...**
  - From ***different perspectives...***
    - 4,000 years ago... via **Abraham...**
    - 2,000 years ago... via **Jesus the Christ**
    - 500 years ago... via **Tom Hauker**
    - 60 years ago... via **Jim Elliot**
    - 8 years ago... via **us & Romans**
    - 4 years ago... via **us & Acts**
    - Picking up where we left off **last week**
      - God's **WORD**-defines Faith
      - God's **WITNESS** affirms Faith
      - God's **WORLDVIEW** applies Faith
      - God's **WORSHIP** in **Abel's** Faith
      - God's **WALK**/Talk in **Enoch's** Faith
      - **WITHOUT** faith... impossible...
      - God's **WORK** in **Noah's** Faith...
- **Abraham** unifies faith as **“God's WITNESS”**
  - Today will be an **“intro”** into Abraham...
  - Next week we'll see his **whole family...**
  - 3 weeks from now... **“Who?” A.I.T.** (family)

- T/S:** Back to today...
- See the clarity...
  - See the consistency...
  - See the continuity...

**BIG IDEA:** *See how firmly woven together the family of faith is, for the express purpose of BE-ing a WITNESS!*

Hebrews 11:8-9 (ESV)

*<sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup> By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise.*

- See the **Great Commandments** being lived out...
- See the **Great Commission's foundation** here...
  - See biblical faith's clarity & continuity
  - See the timelessness & consistency in...
    - The Word of God
    - The People of God
    - The Glory of God!

**T/S:** Let's start weaving Abraham's faithful witness together

**VIDEO:** *Hold On 40 "A"*

(Faith is NOT the power of positive thinking! – see Romans 4)

- Remember... While there is **no truth to Disney theology...** no good news in the Joel Olsteen lies... no eternal life on the other side of **cheap grace's false gospel(s)...**
- At the same time... there is **no truth in the Pharisaical path of "Works" oriented salvation...**

**VIDEO:** *Hold On 40 "B"*

(Faith is NOT the DO-ing of one's DUTY! – see Romans 4)

***Biblical faith lives in the tension of God's "both/and"***

- "By faith" = a sovereign grace-gift!
- "Abraham obeyed" = human responsibility
- ***The key is to see the purpose for both...***
  - Worship
  - Walk
  - Work
  - WITNESS!!!
    - Locally
    - Regionally
    - Globally!!!
- ***Abraham fulfills the Great Commission***
  - ***Chosen & Called***
  - ***Hear & Heed***
  - ***Go & Abandon-ALL***
  - ***Live as a Pilgrim-Sojourner***
  - ***BE a witness!***
- **Abraham believes & obeys!**

- Abraham's attitudes & actions reveal faith!
- Abraham's promises, purposes, & priorities...

**VIDEO:** *Hold On 40 "C"*

(Faith is NOT a broad, wavering road in Romans 4...)

*Biblical faith looks UP when everyone else looks DOWN!*

*Biblical faith walks into & thru the impossible!*

*Biblical faith heals hopelessness!*

*Biblical faith does not need sensory-satisfaction!*

Biblical faith was gifted for God's glory!!!

Biblical faith is to be the light of the world...

Biblical faith is to be a witness to the world!

**VIDEO:** *Hold On 40 "D"*

(Faith IS an unwavering WITNESS! – see Acts 1:8)

**Biblical faith is a witness... potentially at great cost**

- Blind but faithful, immediate obedience
- Abandon all... family, friends, comfort, security
- Cross-carrying... with an attitude of gratitude
- Death-defying... spiritual life & physical death
- Trusting the eternal at the cost of the temporal...

Biblical faith is CHRIST's witness vs. culture's witness!

- There's **no "balance"** in the Bible...
- There's **no "compromise"** in the Cross...
- There's **no "good-enough"** in the Gospel...

Biblical faith LOVES the Lord & SERVES the Savior – period!

- Biblical faith defines the Christian's identity
- Biblical faith deploys the Christian's inspiration
- Biblical faith defends the Christian's inspection
- Biblical faith describes the Christian's invitation

T/S:

Let's be clear...

***Biblical faith is NOT just a theoretical or theological "ideal"***

**VIDEO:** *Hold On 40 "E"*

(Faith IS a worshipful, walking, working WITNESS! – see Acts 1:8)

**My working definition of a biblical witness:**

*Witness equals BE-ing... it is both a verb and a noun.*

*The verb is best defined in the Christian's "BE-ing."*

*The noun of witness is defined as: The LORD's*

- *Born again*
- *Loving & Obedient*
- *Holy Spirit FILLED... EMPOWERED... LED*
- *Holy Spirit EMBOLDENED*
- *Representative-Servant*
- *In ANY environment... and/or encounter*
- *Locally.... Regionally.... Globally*

➤ ***THIS IS WHO WE ARE!!!***

➤ Can you see Abraham at the beginning of all this?

➤ See again the continuity & consistency...

- God's ***PURPOSES***
- God's ***PROMISES***
- God's ***POWER***
- God's ***PLAN***
- God's ***PEOPLE***

➤ *Friends, this is HOW & WHY we are WHO we are!*

➤ ***Faithful witnesses are committed to BE-ing!***

- Faithful witnesses walk as Jesus walked...
- Faithful witnesses work as Jesus worked...
  - Spirit filled – Acts 1:8
  - Spirit empowered – 2 Pt.1:3 & Ph. 4:13
  - Spirit-led – 2 Cor. 5:7

T/S: When we believe the Bible... when we walk by faith...

***We can BE Hebrews 11 Christians!***

- It's never been about "position" but PASSION!
- It's never been about "resumes" but REALITY!
- It's never been about "fame" but FAITH!

**VIDEO:** *Hold On 40 "F"*

(Faith IS a living & dying WITNESS! – see Thomas Hauker)

T/S: **“Christ’s last command should be our 1<sup>st</sup> concern!”**

**CLOSE:**

- Praise God for Hebrews 11...
- Let us learn, love, & live a Hebrews 11 witness!
- By God’s grace... may we, like Abraham:

<sup>8</sup> **By faith** YOU/BRIDGE-family **obey** when YOU/WE are called to go out to a place that YOU/we are to receive as an inheritance. And may it be that YOU/WE **GO** out, even if/when YOU/WE do **not know where** YOU/WE are going. <sup>9</sup> **By faith** YOU/WE may go to **live in** the land of promise, as in **a foreign land, living in tents** with the family of God, a.k.a., heirs with him of the same promise.

Remember loved ones:

**Faith was never given to win trophies... No!**

*Faith has always been given so the faithfully-obedient could witness to Truth & love of God’s glory, grace & gospel!*

**Let’s PRAY!**