

April, 2013

Fresh Fire Ministries
The Expository Teaching Ministry of Jay Duane Driver

“Trusting God Without Evidence”

“By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out not knowing where he was going.” Hebrews 11:8 (NKJV)

It is virtually impossible to talk about the subject of faith without mentioning Abraham, the Father of the Faithful, and a man who God considered His friend. His inclusion among those who we find listed in the Heroes Hall of Faith in Hebrews chapter 11 is not by accident but necessity. The classic example of the level of his faith is found in Genesis chapter 15 when God promises him an heir that would come from his own body. Abraham was around 75 years of age at the time, yet against all odds and in the midst of obvious biological impossibilities Abraham trusted God. “And he believed in the Lord and He accounted it to him for righteousness.” Genesis 15:6 (NKJV) The Apostle Paul revisits this episode in Abraham’s life in Romans chapter 4 where he describes Abraham’s body as being dead, along with the deadness of Sarah’s womb, nonetheless Abraham did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief.

It is not unusual for God to promise us something that we can’t affix ourselves to in a tangible manner. It bypasses every component of our human comprehension. We are challenged to act on the promise when we have absolutely nothing to go on. In Genesis chapter 12 he calls Abraham from his family’s place of dwelling in Haran to go to a place that God promised to “show” him but He had not yet shown him. Genesis 12:4 says Abraham departed as the Lord spoke to Him. Our devotional texts’ rendering of the same event says that Abraham went out without knowing where he was going. No evidence, no roadmaps, no hints, absolutely nothing to go on. God did not point the way or turn him in the general direction. Abraham did not try to gain his bearings by looking for the North Star. He simply began moving towards the place of his inheritance without knowing the place of his inheritance.

Many of us have experienced putting something together without looking at the instructions, or the times when the instructions are missing all together. It does not stop us from forging ahead to complete the task at hand. We trust our instincts, our level of experience, and just plain common sense as flawed as it may be, that is all that we have. We don’t call the manufacturer or wait until customer service mails out a set of instructions that contains the evidence of what the completed project will look like. No, we forge ahead until we achieve the desire result. Yet when God promises us and speaks a word into our spirit that necessitates action on our part we need details, places, people, dates, times, colors, prices, this year, next year and the like. There is not much trust needed when we have all the details but it does make us feel a bit better about what lies ahead. That’s where we draw the line. Faith and trust is not about feelings it is about the facts contained in God’s word related to what He has promised us.

Abraham did not have all of the evidence when he was promised a son, but the day came when Isaac was born, just as God had promised. Abraham left Haran not knowing where he was going but he ultimately arrived there. “Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan and Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched his tent even as far as Sodom.” Genesis 13:12 (NKJV) Evidence makes faith unnecessary while the absence of evidence necessitates the manifestation of our faith.
