

# The Sunday School Lesson

John Brayboy, Salem  
Missionary Baptist Church

### Outline

- I. Faith Undergirds (Hebrews 11:1-2)
- II. Faith Trusts (Hebrews 11:6)
- III. Faith Obeys (Hebrews 11:7-10)
- IV. Faith Grows (Hebrews 11:13-16, 39-40)

### Faith Undergirds (Hebrews 11:1-2)

God's people have always lived by faith, whether under the old covenant or the new. Everything that Christians hope for is based on faith in God. The substance or confidence of our faith or hope is based on the fact that God is real. Therefore, our hope is based on God's promises and the confidence that we have in God's word.

Our hope is in Christ. We are confident that Christ died for our sins even though we did not see Him die. We are confident that He has prepared us a place in heaven, even though we are not there yet. We know that He holds the future and are confident that He will supply all of our needs, present and future. God's people are not trusting in the material things but are laying hold on spiritual things that are eternal.

The writer of Hebrews tells us that the elders exercised their faith in God in the midst of pagan religious and social backgrounds. These elders pleased God because they heard the voice of God and received God's approval.

### Faith Trusts (Hebrews 11:6)

No man can please God without faith. God gives to every man a measure of faith. Everyone who comes (believes) to God must believe that He is who He says He is. Those who seek God will be rewarded. God loves, redeems, saves and rewards those who seek Him diligently.

### Faith Obeys (Hebrews 11:7-10)

We are given two examples of patriarchs who by faith obeyed God. Noah in the midst of an evil and God-hating generation obeyed God and prepared an ark. By his obedience to God, he and his family were saved. Because he believed God, he was an heir of righteousness by faith.

Abraham heard the voice of God and went out looking for a place of promise, not knowing where he might end up. Abraham gave up kindred and home land to go with God.

Abraham moved step by step as God commanded, living in the land of promise but never owning it. His son Isaac, and grandson Jacob never possessed the land either, yet they were of the promise too. God had promised him that out of his loins would come a nation. The promise was given to Abraham.

Abraham was told to look for a city built by God. A place where there was no evil, suffering, pain, etc. and where the foundations would be permanent and he would never have to move again. He finally determined that the place he was looking for was not of this world. Christians are looking for a place out of this world that is perfect in every way.

### Faith Grows (Hebrews: 13-16, 39-40)

All the patriarchs died believing God for the promises even though they did not receive them.

They realized through spiritual faith that there was a better place. Therefore they admitted that this was not their home, that they were just passing through. God's people do not drive their stakes too deep in this world because this is not their home.

When God saves a person their sense of direction changes. So it was with the patriarchs. They were not seeking to go back to the country. When a person is born again by the spirit of God he no longer looks back to the life he was saved from, but is looking forward to his life in Christ with the rewards that it brings.

All of the patriarchs, even though they did not receive the promise, received a good report for their faithfulness. Even though they did not receive the promise, God provided something better for us. Therefore, they had to wait for the promise because they could not be made perfect without us. God provided the Supreme Sacrifice for our sins that we could be made righteous. Therefore they, the patriarchs, were looking for the hope that had to be fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Dear sinner friend, your life is not complete and you are without hope apart from the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. The Old Testament Saints' hope was in the coming of Christ as Savior to atone for sin. Christ came and gave his life and resurrected again that we could have eternal life. If you have not accepted Jesus Christ as Savior, you have no hope after this life, but an eternity of everlasting life in the lake of fire. Won't you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ right now and be saved for Christ's sake? God Bless you until next week.

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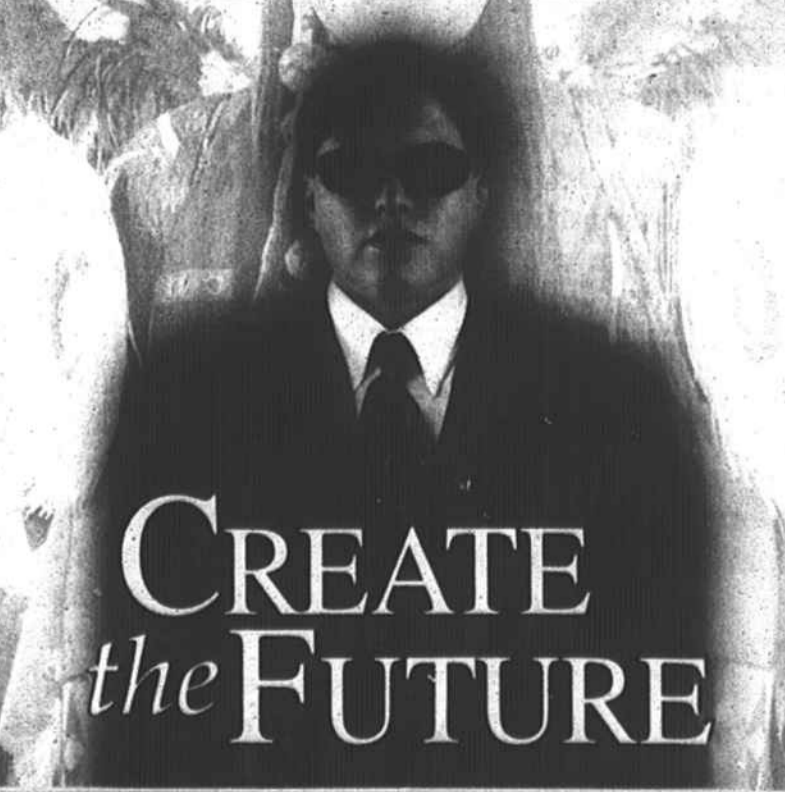
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