

ABRAHAM: THE LIFE OF FAITH
HEBREWS 11:8-19

June 10, 2012

It shouldn't take us very long to realize that there are only two ways to live. The most common way is to live by sight, basing everything we believe on what we can see. The far less common way is to live by faith, banking our earthly lives and eternal destiny on what we cannot see. This, of course, is the Christian way.

When we turn to the Word of God, we begin to understand that the life of faith has some very specific features. Many of them are reflected in our author's summary of the life of Abraham. In fact, there are no less than *five features of faith* that are highlighted within these verses:

1. **Abraham's faith led him on a pilgrimage:** when God spoke, he listened; when God promised, he trusted; when God commanded, he obeyed. (v. 8)

2. **His faith enabled him to live as a stranger and sojourner within this world:** he walked throughout the land that God had promised him, but he never possessed it. (vv. 9-10)

3. **His faith introduced him to God's miraculous power:** his promised son was born against all odds and his descendants would become too many to count. (vv. 11-12; cf. Eph. 3:20)

4. **His faith caused him to focus on an inheritance that went far beyond the boundaries of Canaan:** *all the great men of old set their hearts on an heavenly country, not an earthly homeland.* (vv. 13-16)

5. **His faith convinced him that he could obediently sacrifice his only son of promise:** he knew that God would be true to His Word even if it meant raising Isaac from the dead. (vv. 17-19)