

# Lessons on FAITH and WORKS

We are studying about faith and works in these lessons.

Thursday night we studied the faith and works of CAIN and ABEL.

Last night we studied the faith and works of NOAH.

Today we will study the faith and works of ABRAHAM and his descendants, the CHILDREN of ISRAEL.

**Which of these had an obedient faith and which did not?**

# Lessons on FAITH and WORKS

*The goal of the apostle Paul's preaching was to:*

*“bring about the **OBEDIENCE OF FAITH**” ~ Romans 1:5; 16:26*

**The “OBEDIENCE OF FAITH” is:**

- Faith that ‘worketh by love’ ~ **Galatians 5:6b**
- Love that is shown through obedience ~ **John 14:21a**

*“He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me...”*

- It is faith that obeys God's commands!

# Lessons on FAITH and WORKS

## ABRAHAM

**What kind of a man was Abraham?**

**Genesis 18:17-19** – “The LORD said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, since Abraham will surely become a great and mighty nation, and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed? For I have chosen him, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him.”

**Genesis 26:5** – “Abraham obeyed Me and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes and My laws.”



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## ABRAHAM

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## Two Questions to Consider:

- What do these passages reveal about Abraham?
- What do these passages reveal about God?

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**Genesis 26:5** – “Abraham obeyed Me and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes and My laws.”

What do these passages reveal about Abraham and about God?

## ANSWER:

God gave commands; Abraham walked by faith (he believed and obeyed God).

Remember the ‘obedience of faith’? (**Romans 1:5:16:26**)

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## Consider the altars

Abraham used in worship.

**Genesis 12:8b** – “there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD.”

**Genesis 13:4** – “to the place of the altar which he had made there formerly; and there Abram called on the name of the LORD.”

**Genesis 13:18b** – “and there he built an altar to the LORD.”

## QUESTIONS:

- Did Abraham walk by faith when he built these altars?
- If so, does this mean that God commanded Abraham about the altars?
- **Romans 10:17** – “faith cometh by hearing and hearing by \_\_\_\_\_.”

# Lessons on FAITH and WORKS

It is important to remember:

One can act 'by faith' but not by faith in God's words! This is DIS-obedience!

*Examples:*

**1 Kings 2:28-34** – Joab fled to an altar...an act of faith, but was it God-approved? **NO!**

**1 Kings 18:24** – the prophets of Baal "called upon the name of THEIR god" ...this was an act of faith, but not faith in God!

*(Elijah called upon God!)*

- Did God command Joab to do this?

*(Did Joab believe this would help him?)*

- Did the prophets of Baal have faith that THEIR god would answer?

- **Romans 10:17** – Saving faith must come by hearing God's words (not man's)!



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## Abraham's faith and works – **Genesis 12 & 22**

### N. T. references:

**Hebrews 11:8a** – *"By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed..."*

- Did God command Abraham to leave his home and family in Ur? **YES!**

**Genesis 12:1** – *"Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father's house..."*

- Did Abraham have faith? Faith in whom? (himself or God)?
- Did Abraham obey?
- Did Abraham **NEED** to obey?

### THOUGHT QUESTION:

- If Abraham had left without God command, would God have blessed him?



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**Genesis 12:1** – “Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father’s house...”

**Hebrews 11:8a** – “By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed...”

- Did Abraham have faith? Faith in whom? (himself or God)?
- Did Abraham obey?
- Did Abraham **NEED** to obey?
- If Abraham had left without God command, would God have blessed him?

**Genesis 22:9** – “they came to the place of which God had told him; and Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood, and bound his son Isaac...”

- **Hebrews 11:17** – “By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac...”
- **James 2:21** – “Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar?”

**DID ABRAHAM OFFER ISAAC BY FAITH OR BY WORKS?**

How important is the “obedience of faith”? [**Romans 1:5; 16:26**]

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## LESSONS:

*“You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected...” (James 2:22)*

*“You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone.” (James 2:24)*

- Abel, Noah, his family, and Abraham had faith that worked by love.
- Cain did not; the world that perished in Noah’s day did not. WHY?

Have we learned the importance of:

*“...the OBEDIENCE OF FAITH...”? (Romans 1:5; 16:26)*

## REMEMBER:

**“A FAITH THAT SAVES, IS A FAITH THAT OBEYS”**