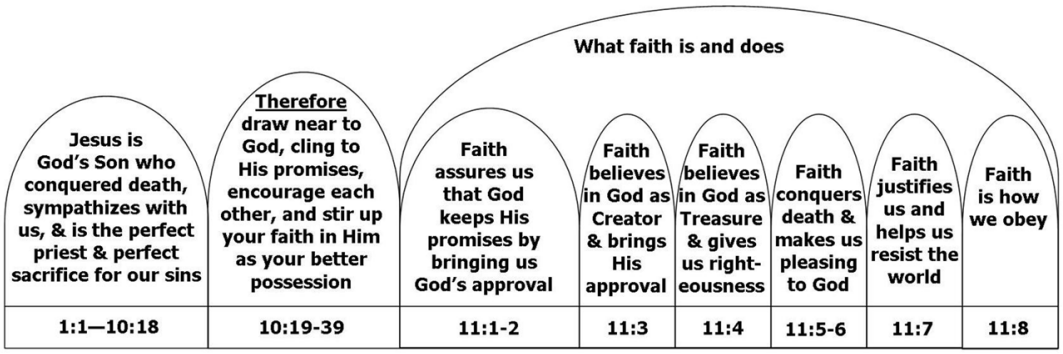
<u>The Letter To The Hebrews</u>
By Faith Abraham Obeyed
Hebrews 11:8

<u>Introduction</u>

Most Christians know from God's Word *what* commands we are to obey.
But many Christians have not seen in God's Word how we are to obey — what it is that enables us to obey.
In Heb 11:8 the author of Hebrews tells us how to obey.
But first, here's an overview of what he's been saying —



<u>What did God call Abraham to do</u>?

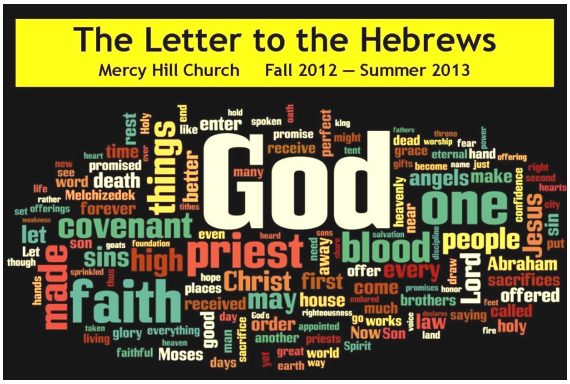
God called Abraham to leave everything and go to a land God would show him (Gen 12:1).
This would have been costly. But Abraham did it — and obeyed.

<u>How did Abraham obey</u>?

Abraham obeyed by faith — by means of faith.
That means faith was HOW he obeyed — the way he obeyed would be by means of having faith — faith was what he would do in order to obey.

<u>What does it mean to obey by faith</u>?

Faith means trusting God's promises (Heb 11:1).
So to obey by faith, Abraham would have obeyed by means of trusting God's promises.
We can see that in Gen 12:1-3. V.1 is the command; vv.2-3 are the promises.
So obeying by faith would mean Abraham starts with trusting God's promises. This might mean having to fight the fight of faith with prayer and meditation on God's promises until his faith grew.
When he fully trusted God's promises, he would be motivated to obey.
The same is true with us — see Col 3:23-24; Gal 6:9; Luke 14:13-14.



<u>What does this mean for us</u>?

Abraham obeyed by faith — by means of trusting God's promises.
Let's follow his example, and do the same.

HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

Do you agree that many Christians have seen in God's Word WHAT God wants us to do, but have not seen in God's Word HOW he tells us to do it? Why do you think we have this blind spot?

In the past, what have you thought it meant to obey "by faith"? Do you agree that for many Christians "by faith" has become a meaningless cliché? Why or why not?

Do you agree that obeying by faith means obeying by means of trusting God's promises? Why or why not? If you do agree, how would this change your obedience?

In the past, what did you do when you struggled to obey? What would you do differently now that you have understood what it means to obey by faith?

What are some areas in which you are now struggling to obey? Work together as a home group finding promises that would help you obey by faith.

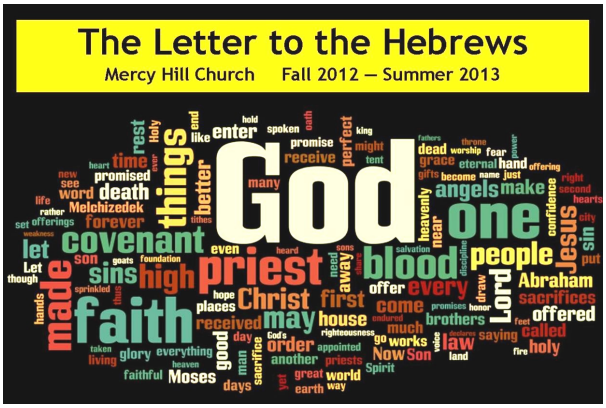
What could we do as a home group to help each other obey by faith?

What was God saying to you through Sunday's teaching?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.

Here are some passages which show both God's commands and His promises:

Colossians 3:23-24
Galatians 6:9
Luke 14:13-14
Psalm 1:2-3
1 Peter 5:5
1 Peter 5:9-10
Matthew 7:7-11
Matthew 6:33
Mark 8:34
James 4:8
James 4:10
1 Peter 3:9
2 Corinthians 6:16—7:1
Hebrews 10:34
Hebrews 12:14
Hebrews 13:5-6
2 Timothy 2:7


The Letter to the Hebrews
Mercy Hill Church Fall 2012 – Summer 2013
God
faith
priest
one
covenant
blood
things
people
Christ
Jesus
angels
high
sins
may
house
order
Abraham
sacrifices
offered
holy
called
law
Moses
Lord
made
enter
better
time
death
word
forever
Melchizedek
promised
receive
perfect
every
first
come
received
good
glory
everything
another
priests
Spirit
world
great
earth
days
Now
Son
works
much
brothers
saying
offer
hope
places
make
dead
grace
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