"By Faith" Pt. VI

Intro: Having taught the Hebrews that the Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah, the Great High Priest who alone effectively mediates between man and God having purchased the ______________ of mankind through His sacrificial work upon the cross, the Author now teaches how salvation is individually received by faith just as the Old Testament saints individually received the promises of God _____________.

A. To show that ______ has ___________ been that by which men come into the favor of God the Author told of Abel ..., Enoch ..., ________ ..., Abraham ..., the women __________: ... As _________ was necessary to the Men of Old so was it necessary to the Women of Old. Faith has ____________ been that conduit by which the people of God, male and female, are linked to God through Christ.

I. “By __________ _________ ...”

A. ________ Sarah __________ lived by faith possessing her own personal relationship with God.

1. But Sarah __________ __________ act in faith.

2. Though Sarah experienced some miserable failures in her life yet did she ___ ______ ______ ___ ______ come to live by faith.

3. ________ will always prevails even in the midst of His saints who often fail. He knows how to make unwilling saints willing, weak saints strong, bringing perfection out of an imperfect people. And how important this is for if the promises of God depended upon the absolute blamelessness of man, then man would be glorified. But since the fulfillment of God’s promises depend upon the God who works His will in fallen men granting faith as He wills, so does God receive all the __________!

4. So, our ______ isn’t in Sarah and her faith but ___ ______ who accomplished His will on the basis of the faith He granted her, weak though she had been. And here is a lesson: if salvation were by works Sarah would be most miserably lost and the promises of God never fulfilled, but since we are saved by grace through faith and that not of ourselves, but as a free gift of God, so then __________ us on the basis of the faith He grants causing the outcome to fulfill His promises. The favor of God comes to us on the basis of faith. “Hebrews! Faith is the means to pleasing God who rewards those who believe!”

B. By ________ in God Sarah _____________ from Him the ability to conceive.

1. Sarah was far “____________ the proper _____ of life” for bearing children, yet she bore a child for ______ _______ her the ability to conceive, and by faith she received that ability.
2. Charles Spurgeon wrote, “Time is nothing to (God), let it be nothing to thee. God is worth waiting for. ... _______ in obedience as a servant, in hope as an heir, in expectation as a ____________.”

C. Sarah’s faith was placed in _______ as she considered Him faithful, Him who had promised. God Himself is _____ very ____________ of the faith He grants the believer!

1. Accurately did John Owens write saying, “The formal object of _______ ____ the ____________ promises, is not the things promised in the first place, but God Himself in His essential excellencies, of truth, of faithfulness and power.”

   a. And dear family, He is a rewarder of those who believe that ______ _____ He is and that He does as ____ ________!

D. “Therefore,” that is, because Sarah had _______ ____ the faithful God who promised, comprehending ________ Himself to be the source of what she hoped for even though it was as yet unseen to her, because of the involvement of her God-granted faith as God counts faith as righteousness, not only did she receive the ability to ____________ but also there was born of the one man Abraham, who was a good as dead, _______ descendants.

   1. And through this union of faith not only did God make ____________ the father of the Hebrew nation but also the father of all who are of the faith. He is the ____________ of both physical Israel and ____________ Israel for not only was Isaac born to Abraham and Sarah, but in the perfect timing of God, so also the Jesus of Nazareth, who is the Christ.

Closing thoughts: “Dear Hebrews and church today, the _______ of Abraham and the faith of Sarah played an essential role in the birth of your people as a nation, and as a church! God approves of His people on the basis of faith, not works; on the basis of the ________, _______ the ________! The only way to please God is through faith. It was the way that the men and women of Old gained the approval of God and it has not changed even unto this time and neither will it change until faith becomes sight! Faith not works! God not man! Christ the Divine not human priests! As Christ Jesus purchased your salvation so must you __________ in Him for salvation is exclusively by grace through faith ____ Christ __________!”

This is the way of faith: it confounds the unregenerate mind, flies in the face of conventional wisdom, is patient beyond patient, and through it God accomplishes His supernatural will bringing us His promise of the salvation, the forgiveness of sin and life eternal. We can do nothing to save ourselves but we must __________ _____ the __________ who saves. Let us not despise so great a salvation!

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