"By Faith" Pt. VIII

Intro: For several weeks now we have been studying the 11th chapter of Hebrews. Upon writing that it was by ________ that the men of old _________ the approval of God the Author then began to name specific individuals such as Able, Enoch, Noah, Abraham and Sarah showing how faith (as opposed to works of the O.T. Law, ceremony and tradition) played an all important role in realizing ________ _________.

A. Our present text is not about what was foreshadowed in Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his only son but about the _________ of Abraham, the excellencies of faith, the thought _____________ of faith, the prevailing nature of faith.

B. The text is not concerned with Abraham's love for his child verses his love for God but the conflict that lay in the mind of the believer when God's promises and demands seem to be at odds. This text teaches us how _______ _________ ______ with a _____________ trust that overrides and reasons through the difficulties the believer has in understanding the way of God.

I. "____ _________ Abraham ..."

A. Abraham was ________

1. "God's purpose is the strengthening of faith by trial, the proving of one's faith by means of _______ that ______ himself ___________." (Richard Phillips)

2. James 1:2-4 says, "Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the _________ of your faith ____________ endurance. 4 And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

3. Of love and with high purpose, it was _______ who _________ Abraham.

B. It was by ______ that as Abraham was tested he ________ in obedience offering up Isaac.
1. As Abraham acted in faith by obediently offering Isaac, so does _________ work obedience in the life of the believer, even _________ the most difficult _________.

2. Even though Abraham had emphatically receive the promises of God concerning Isaac, yet did he offer up his only begotten son. When God’s _________ _________ meets our smaller mind _________ _______ in obedience.

C. By _________ Abraham ________________, and this is what faith concluded: verse 19, “He considered that God is able to raise men even from the dead; ...”

1. Let us learn this great truth: _________ is not blind, it is not stupid, it does not concoct its own desires and fabricate its own promises thinking it can press God to the mat, but being of God and subservient to God so is it brilliant, _________ _________ the thought of the believer through _________ _________ of who God is and what He has ordained.

2. “Here we learn what was the immediate _________ _______ Abraham’s _________ on this occasion, namely, the mighty power of God. He was fully assured that the Lord would work a miracle rather than fail of His promise. Ah, my brethren, it is by meditating upon _________ sufficiency that the heart is quieted and faith is established. In times of temptation when the soul is heavy with doubts and fears, great relief may be obtained by pondering the Divine _________ _________, particularly, God’s omnipotence. His all-mighty power is a special prop to faith.” (A. W. Pink)

Closing: When it seems that God cannot fulfill His promises, true _________ _________ and looking to Him to do the impossible, faith acts in obedience. Faith is the victory that overcomes the world.

Beloved, by faith consider the issues of life as from God, for our good and for His glory. By faith _________ _________ God to be _________ and with reason founded in Him, His person, His nature, and His attributes, act in obedience. This is the Word of the Lord.

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