

God Worked through Abraham

Read Hebrews 11:8-19

We looked at Abraham in some detail under an earlier section, *God Blesses*. But here, notice the way God used Abraham. Why did God choose to work through Abraham?

- Abraham trusted God.
Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness
(Romans 4:3, NASB, quoting Genesis 15:6)
- Because Abraham trusted God, he obeyed Him, even when what God asked was incredibly difficult.

In what ways did God's call make life difficult for Abraham?

- He had to uproot and move to a land God didn't specify. He had to follow God, even when he didn't know where he was going.
- Throughout his life, he never had a settled residence and never owned land, except for his burial plot. He lived his entire life as a stranger and wanderer.
- Though God had promised to make him a great nation, his heir wasn't born until his wife was 91 and he was 100.
- Then God asked Abraham to offer his son as a burnt offering. God only cancelled the request at the last moment, as Abraham was about to kill his own son.

What did God accomplish through Abraham?

- Through this one man came God's chosen people, the nation of Israel, and God's Chosen One, Messiah, Jesus Christ.

What did it profit Abraham?

- God kept all His promises to Abraham: God made him a great nation - in fact, several great nations; God blessed him abundantly; through Abraham, all the families on earth have been blessed (Genesis 12:1-3).
- Three times scripture calls Abraham, "the friend of God" (2 Chronicles 20:6-7; Isaiah 41:8-9; James 2:23). Can you imagine a greater honor?

Was Abraham perfect?

- Twice he deceived foreign hosts, passing Sarai off as only his sister, not his wife. His deception put both his wife and his hosts in danger.
- He tried his own solution to the problem of the lack of an heir, and it caused family animosity that still continues (in the tension between Jews and Arabs).

Read the demands and blessings of faith in the life of Abraham, Genesis 11:27 – 25:11.

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