

***The Call That Changes!
The Testimony Of Abraham
Hebrews 11:8-10***

Introduction:

1. When I Turned 18 Years Old!
 - Excited! Looked Forward!
 - Graduation / College
 - “Privilege” To Register With The “Selective Service” – The Organization Used To Draft Young Men Into The Military During Times Of War & Other Critical Needs!
 - Not Used – Not Needed!
 2. Not So In 1969 - Vietnam War!
 - December 1, 1969 - First Since World War 2
 - Large Glass Container Filled With 366 Blue Plastic Capsules With Birthdates!
 - Used To “Call Up” Men To Serve!
 - This “Call” Changed Lives – Unlike Mine!
 - College - Another Kind Of Education: Boot Camp!
 - Weddings - Another Kind Of Relationship: “If The Corp Wants You To Have A Wife, They Would Issue You One!”
 - Jobs - Another Kind Of Occupation: “Specialty”
 3. Find In Hebrews 11:
 - Another Call That Changes!
 - The Call To Faith By The Lord!
 - This Call Is Focused On In The Testimony Of Abraham’s Faith!
 - Read Hebrews 11:8-10
 - This Call To Faith Changed Abraham’s Life!
 - Common To All People Of Faith!
 - Because Faith Comes The Same Way!
 - Romans 10:17 - “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God!”
 - God’s Word / Call Came To Abraham & He Believed!
 - Through This Faith, He Was Righteous!
 - Like Abel!
 - Through This Faith, He Walked With God!
 - Like Enoch!
 - Through This Faith, He Made An Impact!
 - Like Noah!
 - But Like Noah, Faith First Made An Impact On Him!
 - How Do We Know?
 - Because Faith Will Always Result In A Life-Altering Obedience To God & His Word!
 - When Abraham Was “Called” By God – He “Obeyed!”
 - This, Then, Is The “Fruit & Evidence” Of Faith! (Pink)
 - 4. ***The Call Of God Will Change Your Life!***
 - You Will Both Hear & Heed God’s Call!
 - “Obey” - To Hearken!
 - And This “Obedience” Will Change How You Live!
 - How Do You Know If Real Faith Has Made An Impact In Your Life? What Is The “Fruit & Evidence” Of Your Faith?
- * God’s Call Will:
1. ***Change Your Loyalties!***
 - 11:8 - “By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went!”
 - When God Called Abraham, By Faith He Obeyed!
 - By ***Leaving!***
 - He “Was Called To Go Out” & He “Went Out!”
 - Even “Not Knowing Whither He Went!”
 - Look At What Abraham Left!

- Genesis 12:1 - “Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee!”
 - Familiar Land!
 - Familiar People!
 - Familiar Religion!
 - “They Served Other Gods!” (Joshua 24:2)
 - Own Family!
 - “This Call, Though It Was A Very Trying Call, Was The Call Of God, And Therefore A Sufficient Ground For Faith And Rule Of Obedience!” (Matthew Henry)
- No Longer Were Abraham’s Loyalties To The Familiar – Now His Loyalty Was To His Faith – In God!
 - Why? Because Of God’s Promise To Him!
 - “Unto A Land That I Will Shew Thee!”
 - “Into A Place Which He Should After Receive For An Inheritance!”
- Luke 14:26-27 - “If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple!”
- In 2003, Article Written By A Former Muslim In England, “The Times”:
 - Ahmer Khokar - Pakistani Family
 - “I Found Christ But May Lose My Muslim Family!”
 - Shares How He Became A Christian From A Very Devout Muslim Family!
 - He Feels “Out Of Place” From His Community, His Culture, His Family & Even His Church!
 - Because His Loyalty Has Been Changed To Christ!
- God’s Call, When You Obey In Faith, Will Change Your Loyalties!
 - There Are Some Things You Will **Leave!**
 - Luke 18:28-30 - “Then Peter said, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee. And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God’s sake, Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting!”
 - Have You “Left All” To Follow Him?
 - Or Are There Some Things That You Are Not Willing To Leave?

* God’s Call Will:

2. ***Change Your Lifestyle!***

- 11:9 - “By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise!”
 - When God Called Abraham, By Faith He Obeyed!
 - By **Living** Differently!
 - He “Sojourned” - “Dwelling In Tents”
- Look At How Abraham Lived!
 - He Could Have Lived The “American Dream”!
 - Genesis 13:2 - “And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold!”
 - He Wasn’t Poor At All! He Could Have Had It All!
 - He Could Have Built A House / Established An Estate / Been Involved In Politics – Wealthy, Influential Man!
 - But He “Sojourned” & “As In A Strange Country”
 - No House / No Farm / “He Took No Part In Its Politics, Had Nothing To Do With Its Religion, Had Very Little Social Intercourse With Its People, But Lived By Faith And Found His Joy And Satisfaction In Communion With The Lord!” (Arthur Pink)
 - Why?
 - Because He Believed That He Was An “Heir” Of God’s Promise! And So Were His Children!
- Hudson Taylor - Famous Missionary To China:
 - Learned That Faith In & Obedience To God’s Call Would Change His Lifestyle!
 - Left The Comforts / Convenience / Culture / Companionship Of England!
 - Lived In China Like The Chinese!
 - Same Clothes / Food / Hair-Style
 - Example: “Called out late one night to witness to and pray over a sick woman with starving children. As he tried to pray, his words choked in his mouth because he had in his possession a silver coin that would

answer his prayer and alleviate their sufferings somewhat. 'Hypocrite!' he heard his heart condemn him. 'Telling people about a kind and loving Father in Heaven -- and not prepared to trust Him yourself without your money!' He gave them his last coin -- only one bowl of porridge between him and poverty! As he ate that last meal he remembered the Scripture, 'He that giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord.' The next day he received a package. In it was a gold coin -- worth ten times the silver coin. Taylor cried out triumphantly, 'That's good interest! Ha! Ha! Invested in God's bank for twelve hours and it brings me this! That's the bank for me!'

- God's Call, When You Obey In Faith, Will Change Your Lifestyle!
- There Is A Different Way You Will **Live**!
- Is Your Lifestyle One That Shows Others Your Faith In The Lord?

* God's Call Will:

3. Change Your Longing!

- 11:10 - "For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God!"
 - When God Called Abraham, By Faith He Obeyed!
 - By **Looking** For Something Great!
 - He "Looked For A City!"
 - What Did Abraham Look For?
 - "Look" - An Expectation To Receive God's Promises!
 - A "City!"
 - Not One For Man By Man!
 - But One For Man By God! Heaven!
 - "The Best Was Yet To Come!"
 - A "City!"
 - Secure / Permanent / Pleasure / Presence Of God!
 - Melvin - Mentally Handicapped - 50's Or 60's:
 - Always Smiling! Always Shaking Hands!
 - Always Asking: "Are You Going To Heaven? I'm Going To Heaven!"
 - Now, He's In Heaven & Received His Inheritance!
 - Because Faith In & Obedience To God's Call Changed His Longing! He Kept Longing For & Looking To Heaven!
 - God's Call, When You Obey In Faith, Will Change Your Longing!
 - There Is A Promise You Will **Look** For!
 - What Are You Looking To & Longing For? What Makes You Smile?

Conclusion:

1. The Call Of God Will Change Your Life!

- Has It? If Not, Let It!
- By Being Obedient To His Call Through Faith!

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