

Sermon Notes  
November 22nd, 2020  
NATIONS: Missions Month 2020  
Commitment Sunday

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Welcome To Discovery Community Church!

Welcome to Commitment Sunday! If you are just joining us: we have spent the month reorienting to God's call to us to live globally. This Sunday, our last Sunday of NATIONS, we set aside as Commitment Sunday. In a few minutes, I am going to encourage you to do something: to take one step, and you get to take the step, even define the step.

We have been following Abraham and his life journey recorded in Genesis. Today we are going to wrap up, by jumping to the New Testament.

Just before Abraham is discussed in Hebrews, there is an important preface: **Hebrews 10:36-39 New International Version (NIV)**

You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. For, "In just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay." And, "But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back." But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.

We are gonna talk about Abraham, but only because his life and how he lived is deeply relevant to times like these!

So, if we ever needed a Commitment Sunday: a commitment to what?

"But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back."

**Faith that Perseveres.**

Jesus: **Luke 18:8 New International Version (NIV)**

...when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?

God is looking for faith: He is looking for men, women, children, families, and churches with persevering faith.

There has always been a lot of confusion about what faith is: that's why the author of Hebrews recaps Abraham.

### **Hebrews 11:8-12 New International Version (NIV)**

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

The kind of faith that God looks for has little to do with happy feelings or a positive mental picture of the things we want. You and I have a far more tangible call. And the time that we needed clarity and a recommitment to faith, and how to live it out, is now.

I'm going to challenge you and encourage you to commit today to:

### **A Faith that Perseveres:**

#### **1. Responds to the One calling**

### **Hebrews 11:8 New International Version (NIV)**

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going

Abraham was the Father of Faith, not because he could see a better future or even made a better future: it's because He was Surrendered to Him who calls.

### **Hebrews 11:6 New International Version (NIV)**

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

We seek Him.

### **John 14:6 New International Version (NIV)**

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

### **Acts 4:12 New International Version (NIV)**

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

God is calling today, and God is calling you.

## **2. Readily leverages the stuff of earth**

### **Hebrews 11:9-10 New International Version (NIV)**

By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

### **James 2:22-24 New International Version (NIV)**

You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God’s friend. You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

Abraham took his life, his plans, his family, and traded away everything to live faithfully. He leveraged everything for the call and mission of God

### **Matthew 6:19-21 New International Version (NIV)**

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

## **3. Rests in a future secure**

### **Hebrews 11:12 New International Version (NIV)**

And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

But truthfully, Abraham the great Father of Faith. He never saw, with his eyes, a nation, the descendants, the promised land, or even the coming Messiah: yet he rested in a future secure.

A Persevering faith endures, even in the face of the most and the greatest uncertainty this world has to offer. In the greater trust and faith that God will prevail, in spite of these difficulties, in spite of these limitations, even in spite of me.

### **1 Peter 1:3-7 New International Version (NIV)**

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

We have an opportunity here that is far bigger than sponsoring a few neat projects. We have an opportunity to be the people of God: a people with persevering faith.

God will absolutely accomplish His will; the great question is: will you and I be an integral part of it?

We are asking you to pray, give, and go. I want you to dive in, but let it be an overflow of your decision today to a life of faith. **Let's start right there, then: pray, give, go.**