

Pursuing a Better Country

Heb. 11:8-16

Introduction:

- A. Abraham and Sarah lived in pursuit of a better country.
 - 1. Lived as strangers in tents in the promised land — owned only a burying place (cf. Acts 7:5)
 - 2. Believed their decedents would receive that land — they looked for heavenly city (v. 10, 16).
 - 3. New Testament clearly indicates that Abraham succeeded (Matt. 8:11; Lk. 16:23).
 - 4. This example is given to encourage us as we pursue the same country.
- B. The pursuit of the better country involved three basic qualities — did for Abraham, does for us.

Discussion:

I. Faith

- A. An intelligent faith — based on evidence.
 - 1. Evidence that God is (v. 6)
 - a. Word (Bible) is primary evidence — the miracle of the Bible.
 - b. His creation is confirming evidence (Ps. 19:1; Rom. 1:20).
 - 2. Evidence that He has spoken (Heb. 1:2; 2:1-4; Rom. 10:17)
 - a. Promises to enjoy and hope for.
 - b. Precepts to obey.
- B. An obedient faith (v. 8; Heb. 5:8, 9).
 - 1. Obeys to become a Christian.
 - 2. Obeys to remain a Christian.
- C. A nurtured faith (Rom. 4:20,21).
 - 1. Through fellowship with God — study and prayer.
 - 2. Through exercise of faith — working and testings.

II. Fortitude

- A. To wait for the reward (v. 10).
- B. To appear foolish and strange to most of the world (1 Cor. 1:20-29; 1 Pet. 4:1-4)
- C. To risk great losses to serve the Lord (v. Lk. 14:26)
- D. To sacrifice present pleasure and advantage for future reward (vv. 24-26).

III. Focus

- A. Focused on goal before us rather than going back or aside (v. 15; Lk. 9:51, 62).
- B. Focused on the Lord and heaven (Heb. 12:1-3; Col. 3:2)
 - 1. Amid the storms of life (cf. Matt 14:29-30).
 - 2. Amid all distractions of life (Mk. 4:19).
 - 3. Amid all difficulties of life. (2 Tim. 2:3,4)
 - 4. Amid all disappointments of life (2 Tim. 4:14-18)

Conclusion:

- A. Remember: Faith, fortitude and focus?
- B. How do you stand in each of these?