

The Promises of God

Hebrews 11:8-9

It is a good life, living for the Lord, and I trust and hope that you can say that today because you have been born again. You've trusted Jesus as your Savior; you're on your way to Heaven; you've done everything you can to serve Him on this earth, not to be saved but because you are saved. It is a good life.

We want to look today in the book of Hebrews chapter 11. Now this is known as the Faith Hall of Fame, because we read of many people here who lived by faith. We read about Abraham and all of the descendants, how that they lived by faith. Many times we hear the future is as bright as the promises of God. Now, this may be true. It's a true statement, but the promises of God are not worth the paper and ink it took to print them if you don't believe them. God's promises are wonderful, glorious, and it's shouting ground, but we must activate them in our own lives before they can help us.

Now, in Hebrews chapter 11, we want to look in verses 8 and 9 here. Chapter 11, verses 8 and 9, it says, 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.* 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:*

Well, these promises that we look at today are possessed promises. We must receive them. We must grasp those promises. These promises are originated in the Savior. It's through the Lord that we can claim these promises that God has given to us individually. We claim the promises of God through the Savior by faith. We see these promises are observed in the Scriptures. The Scriptures place forth and put forth the promises of God, and we accept those promises by faith,

not only through the Savior, but through His Word in the Scriptures.

And we see that they are occupied. These promises of faith are occupied in the saint, not only in the saints that we read of in Hebrews chapter 11, but we see those people around us who are living by faith, and even in our own lives, we take by faith what God has promised to us, and we see that those things are done in our lives.

Now, these things by faith...these promises are persuading promises, and we must believe them. In Romans chapter 1 and verse 17, the Bible says, *For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.* We must accept these things by faith. We must accept the promises. We must believe in them.

These promises will persuade you in values, and we see in Moses' life in Hebrews chapter 11, verses 25 through 28, he valued some things, but he valued Christ more than he valued the things of Egypt. He valued what God had said He was going to do, that what God wanted him to do to help his people escape from the hand of the tyrant Pharaoh.

Let's read those verses in Hebrews chapter 11, verses 25 through 28. It says....talking of Moses now. ²⁵*Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season....* Moses had it made. He could have stayed in Egypt and he could have been well respected, but notice what it says.

²⁶*Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.* ²⁷*By faith he....that's Moses....forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing*

him who is invisible. ²⁸*Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them.* By faith, Moses led the people of God out of Egypt.

And then we understand that these promises of God will persuade us in vigilance. We need to be vigilant. In verse 33 of chapter 11 of Hebrews, the Bible says there, *Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions....*

I see that by reading the Scriptures that, when we have the faith that's spoken of in Hebrews chapter 11, we will do things, not simply to be doing things, but we will do the things that God has given us to do. We will be vigilant. We'll be watching. We'll be looking for the Lord's return, and as we look for the Lord's return, we'll be busy about His business to do the job that He's given us to do as saved people.

And these promises will also persuade us in victory. Now, Caleb got his mountain by faith, the promises of God that God gave him. He said, "Give me this mountain." And if you go back in the book of Joshua, chapter 14, you'll read how that he approached Joshua and He said that Moses...that God through Moses had promised him that, because of his faithfulness...and we're talking about Caleb...through his faithfulness to God by going up and giving a favorable report of the land that originally...that the people of Israel could have had, had they listened to God, but they refused and they turned their backs on God. But Caleb gave a favorable report, and he said, "We can take this land."

As we read in chapter 14 of the book of Joshua, Caleb said that he was 85 years old; yet he was as strong as in the day when he gave the favorable report to the children of Israel to Moses. He said, "I'm as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me." He said, "I'm strong. Now, therefore..." in verse 12 of chapter 14 of Joshua,

Caleb said, Now therefore give me this mountain, whereof the LORD spake in that day; for thou heardest in that day how the Anakims....and these were giants.... [were] there, and [that] the cities [were] great [and] fenced: if so be the LORD [will be] with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the LORD said.

Caleb, by faith, said, "Give me this mountain." Although the obstacles were great, he had the faith of God, the faith knowing that God would deliver him, that He would give him the mountain that he was asking God to give Him. We have mountains in our lives today. We face many obstacles in our lives, but we need to have the faith that Caleb had and rely upon God to give us those mountains, to overcome the obstacles in our lives. How do we do that? We take God at His Word. We do it by the faith of God.

Now, these promises that I'm speaking of today are precious promises. We must embrace them. In Hebrews 11:13, once again, it says here, *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of [them], and embraced [them], and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*

These people died in faith. They embraced. They didn't receive all the promises right then, but they had the faith of God knowing that He would do what He said He would do. Little faith will bring your soul to Heaven, but great faith will bring Heaven to your soul. Being happy in the Lord today is the most important thing in our lives as saved people. Being happy in the Lord will help us to bring happiness to other people who do not know Him as Savior. When we accept Jesus as our Savior by faith, that faith should be spread abroad to the hearts of other people whom we come into contact with. We should not be so selfish as to step back and say, "You know, I'm glad I'm on my way to Heaven. It's too bad these other people are not going." We shouldn't have

that attitude. We should, by faith, tell others that they too can go to Heaven by trusting Jesus as their Savior by receiving Him by faith, asking Him into their hearts to save them so they can be on their way to Heaven.

Now, you hear the stories of lovers dying embraced in each other's arms. We used to hear of places called Lovers' Leap, how that these people could not be together, so therefore they would embrace each other and jump to their deaths. And we often think of Romeo and Juliet how that they were entwined in love and how that they made a pact that they were going to die because they could not be with each other. Well, these people in Hebrews chapter 11, they died embracing the promises of God to their bosom. They died not receiving the promise but holding onto that promise, and that is glory today because what better way could a person go than holding onto the promises of God and trusting Him fully for their health, for their life, for helping other people go to Heaven.

It's impossible for faith to overdraw its account in God's bank. You can't outdo God. God says it's by grace through faith that a person is saved. It's not of works, lest any man should boast. It's all of God. It's nothing of us, but it's all of God. Have you trusted Him today? Do you know Him as your Savior? Are you on your way to Heaven? If not, I encourage you to bow your head where you're at and ask Jesus to come into your heart.

"Lord Jesus, I receive You as my Savior. I believe that You died on the cross for me personally, and because You died and rose from the grave, I can have eternal life." If you'll pray that prayer today or a prayer like that, God will save you right where you're at. You don't have to be in a church to get saved. You can receive Jesus right where you're at. Ask Him to come into your heart right now, and He'll save you.

If you're a saved person and you've turned away from Him...I didn't say you were lost...you've turned away from Him, you're not living for Him, ask Him to forgive you. He'll forgive you. Turn from your sin and be used of God.

Well, it's been good being with you today, and let me invite you to tune in again at this same time next week. But in the meantime, look at our website, www.LRWM.org. On the website, you can download a transcript of this program and other programs of "It's a Good Life." You can also find Bible study helps on the website. You can do Bible searches looking for certain words. If you've heard a word that you're not sure where it's found in the Scriptures, you can go on that website and you can put the word in, and it'll bring up wherever that word is found, and it's a good Bible study help. And go to that website today, www.LRWM.org.

You can also write me today, Lewis Woodard, 497 Judith Avenue, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731. I'd like to hear from you today. Let me know that you're listening to the program, and I will be glad to pray with you and pray for you and pray for the requests that you have on your heart.

Until this same time next week, I'll be looking for you. I won't actually see you with my natural eye, but I'll be looking for you through my faith's eye. I have faith that you will be here at this same time next week, when you'll hear me say, "It's a good life." May the Lord bless you richly is my prayer.