

Introduction:

- “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1, ESV) Faith is! Not faith was or will be. Faith is.
- We have been looking at FAITH as an adventure.
 - Webster defines Adventure - as a venture/activity involving danger or risk. Faith loves that! In fact, you would be hard pressed to find faith in the Bible that is absent of danger or risk.
 - Faith is an experience that seemingly may ‘set one’ up for loss or harm **IF** God does not come through.
- We are going to look at ‘death while believing’ this evening. This sounds kind of morbid but this passage is very hopeful.
- Hebrews 11:13-22. And Heb 11:39 “And all of these, though they won divine approval by [means of] their faith, did not receive the fulfillment of what was promised,” (Hebrews 11:39, AMP)

I. They Died Looking Hebrews 11:13-16

A. These all died in the faith. vs. 13

1. Who are these? Everyone named so far in Hebrews 11 (Able, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah). They are all in faith even in death! God wants all of us to be in that position. It requires us to see beyond this world and into the next. It becomes a faith that carries us to Him. IE. Like Lazarus carried by angels to Abrahams bosom. (Luke 16)
2. He wants us to see and to realize that not all the promises are for this world. Even though the promise was heard and seen by these, they did not receive the promise. They saw it from a distance and welcomed it!

B. All of these were sojourners/Exiles. Hebrews 11:13-14 IE. Like Adam and Eve exiled from the Garden.

1. Sojourner - Gr. *parepídēmos*. “This rare term has the sense of ‘one who is (temporarily) a resident alien’. It occurs in the NT in 1 Pet. 1:1; 2:11: Christians are only temporary residents on earth and must not let their lives be shaped by its interests.” Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). TDNT (p. 149). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.
2. We too are sojourners! At least, those who are living by faith. We do not belong to this world. We only live in it. We are just passing through just like our Fathers before us...Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
3. A sojourner lives a life of faith. When you are an exile you live a life of faith, living to get back to your homeland! List to our forefathers:
 - a) Abraham: “*I am a sojourner and foreigner among you; give me property among you for a burying place, that I may bury my dead out of my sight.*” (Genesis 23:4, ESV)

- b) Jacob *"And Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The days of the years of my sojourning are 130 years. Few and evil have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not attained to the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their sojourning." (Genesis 47:9, ESV)*
 - c) David - *"Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear to my cry; hold not your peace at my tears! For I am a sojourner with you, a guest, like all my fathers." (Psalm 39:12, ESV)*
 - d) Paul - *"But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ," (Philippians 3:20, ESV)*
- C. The point: The life of faith is the life of an exile, a sojourner, a refugee. We do not belong to this world.
1. The promises of God are real and some we have seen from afar and have greeted them and tasted them and they have made us restless and uneasy.
 2. These promises are shaping our whole way of seeing and thinking and feeling. Their beauty has fashioned our values. We are no longer in step with this world because our treasure is in heaven...this world is not our home.
- D. Two Key Identifiers of these sojourners
1. They are seekers: They are seeking another country (verse 14). Mt 6:33 seek first kingdom. They are not settling here. This is not home. Does not look like home. Does not feel like home. It is not home! They lived in tents: NO Home! If they were thinking of home they could have gone back! But they....
 2. They desired! They were desiring a better place...a heavenly homeland! (verse 16)
 3. Faith sees the desired future and what it offers and wholeheartedly goes after it! Living and dying by faith means having new desires and seeking new satisfactions. It is not a mere decision to believe in God. Even demons believe that. Sojourners are looking for a better homeland.
 4. God is not ashamed of those who seek and desire Him. In fact, He is proud of us and has prepared a city for us! Do you want God to be proud of you? Desire Him! That ascribes to Him worth!

II. Let's Look At Their Behavior

- A. Faith has intense desires for the God of the promises and faith intensely trusts the God of the promises to deliver. Because of that, faith acts in ways that are out of step with the world that does not desire or trust God. Many people want to jump into the promise while having no desire for God. But it is knowing God that empowers you to leap...live exiled, to a stranger in this world.
- B. Abraham is our example. "So here's the test: will Abraham reason his way out of obedience or will he trust that the humanly impossible will come to pass? The answer

is in verse 19: "He considered that God is able to raise men even from the dead; from which he also received him back as a type." John Piper.

1. Abraham did not reason himself out of obedience
2. He reasoned himself into obedience.

C. By Faith Dying and Looking

1. By Faith Jacob - old and dying... blessed each of Joseph's sons.
2. By Faith Joseph - when he was about to die...was confident that Israel would leave Egypt and be sure to take His bones.

Conclusion:

- What has God called you to that you would be willing to give your life for/life to.
- Have you reached the place of understanding the promises to come that feel like a stranger here. You just do not fit in with this world?