

FAITH CALLS YOU

HEBREWS 11:8-16

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: Faith is God-given. We do not manufacture God-given faith. Instead, we receive it and live it. For more on faith, see the chart "What is Faith" in Romans, Chapter 1.

TO LIVE LIKE STRANGERS AND FOREIGNERS. Abraham believed, by faith, God's command to leave his country and his relatives and go to a land that God would show him. In doing this, Abraham confirmed that he was a stranger and foreigner on the earth. Abraham's life of faith was not from the approval of the world, but from trusting God. (Hebrews 11:8, 9, fn 11:8-10, Philippians 3:20, fn 3:20, Colossians 3:1-4, fn 3:1, 2, Hebrews 12:22-24, fn 12:22, I Peter 2:11, 12, fn 2:11) *Why and how could you live like a stranger and a foreigner in your earthly life?*

TO LOOK FORWARD. "The most positive thing about our faith is not what we can see or hold or measure, but the promise that one day we will forever be with the Lord. Christians whose faith does not extend to heaven will have their eyes on the things of this world and will wonder why they are not happier in the Lord. Nothing in this life, including God's most abundant earthly blessings, will give a believer the satisfaction and joy that come with absolute assurance of future glory." John MacArthur, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Hebrews, p. 334. (Hebrews 11:10-13, fn 11:13, John 14:1-4, fn 14:2, 3, II Corinthians 5:1-5, fn 5:1-10, Hebrews 13:14, fn 13:14, Psalm 116:15, fn 116:15) *How could experiencing the presence of Jesus now help you to look forward to heaven?*

TO ANTICIPATE FULFILLMENT. When I orient my life to be a life of faith, I, like Abraham, will long for a better country—a heavenly one. For now, when I am controlled by the Holy Spirit. I can have just a taste of heaven. (Hebrews 11:14-16, fn 11:13-16, Ephesians 1:13, 14, fn 1:13, 14, I John 3:1-3, fn 3:2, 3, I Corinthians 13:10-12, fn 13:10-12, Revelation 21:1-5, fn 21:3, 4) *How does being filled with (under the influence of) the Holy Spirit help you to anticipate fulfillment in heaven?*

As you daily study the truths about Jesus, in what ways is the presence of the Holy Spirit revealing to you God's majesty and glory?

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