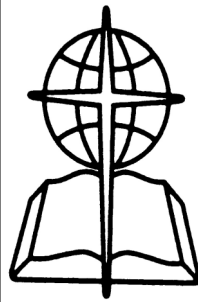


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 Local Edition of the Alabama Baptist



BIBB BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

"I have the daily burden of how the churches are getting along."
 2 Cor. 11: 28b

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The School of Faith

And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for the one who comes to God must believe that He exists, and *that* He proves to be One who rewards those who seek Him. Hebrews 11:6 The chief duty for any person is to believe! The greatest sin is unbelief. Chapter 11 of Hebrews gives us some examples to teach us what it means to believe in the Creator God. In this chapter, Abraham is the dean of the school of Faith. Abe enrolled in the school of Faith in Ur at age 75. Ur was a wicked place. This proves you are never too old or too wicked to enroll in the school of faith. As we unpack Hebrews 11:8-19 we discover six lessons taught by Abraham in the school of Faith.

The first lesson is learning to hear the voice of God. Abe listened to the voice of God when He called. Heb. 11:8. Faith comes by hearing Romans 10:17. How can we hear the voice of God? The word of God! Especially the life and teachings of Jesus. Heb. 1:1-2. We must squeeze what we discover in the Bible through what Jesus teaches us. We can hear the voice of God in biblical prayer. God gives those who trust in Jesus, His Holy Spirit who speaks to us. God puts people into our lives who speak the words of God to us. God also speaks to us by the experiences of our lives interpreted by the Scripture.

The second lesson is when a person endeavors to do what God says. Abe obeyed the directions of God's voice. A faith problem is when we don't obey the known voice of God. How do we believe? Say yes with our lips and with our life. It is faith when we fully comply to the known will of God.

The third lesson is learning the value of the promises of God. Abe valued the promise of God more than the promise of the world. 11:9-10. Abe set his priorities according to God's directions. First seek the kingdom of God. Abe resisted and rejected the worldly and looked for a city built by God. We learn this lesson and reject the world's lust and choose the Fruit of the spirit.

The fourth lesson has to do with focus. 11:10 and 13. Abe's focus was on God's promises. Col 3:1-2 Therefore, if you have been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things *that are* above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²^[a]Set your minds on the things *that are* above, not on the things that are on earth. 2 Cor 4:18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

The fifth lesson is the one of refinement. 11:11. God tested Abe's faith. Abe's faith grew stronger with every test. God will test our faith. God is not trying to give us a failing grade when He tests us. He is letting us learn to depend on Him more and more. Simon Peter learned the lesson of refinement. "In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which perishes though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. 1 Peter 1:6-9.

The final lesson is victory. 11-12. Can you imagine the victorious celebration of Abraham and Isaac when God provided the Lamb for the sacrifice? God has made us more than victors in Christ Jesus. John the beloved tells us in 1 John that faith is our victory. 1 John 5:4 For whoever has been born of God overcomes **the** world; and this **is the victory** that has overcome **the** world: our **faith**. It starts with a step of faith. It starts with a yes of faith. Yes, God my faith is in You, and I will walk one step at a time guided by Your eternal Word.

UPCOMING SUMMER SESSIONS

@ Bethel Baptist Church
 Highway 5
 Brent, AL 35034

June 20th-5:00 pm
 Movie- Courageous

June 27th-5:00 pm
 Dr. Mac Brunson

July 11th-5:00 pm
 Southland Quartet

July 25th-5:00 pm
 Dr. Gary Hollingsworth

August 29th-5:00 pm
 Dr. Gil McKee

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND!

2020-2021

<u>Church Contributions</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Yearly Total</u>
Antioch	118.85	1,026.15
Ashby	729.20	4,968.07
Bethel	100.00	900.00
Bethlehem	134.50	796.11
Bibbville	316.98	2,569.23
Blocton Third	75.00	675.00
Brent		6,127.51
Cahaba Valley	48.16	48.16
Calvary		300.00
Camp Branch		
Centreville	982.44	10,353.39
Community		
Eoline		200.00
FBC Woodstock	1,074.80	10,470.97
Four Points	706.91	6,010.79
Haysop		1,914.07
Johntown	55.30	856.10
Lowerytown		4,185.23
Lucile	177.00	1,324.00
Marvel		
Mt. Carmel		2,727.40
Mt. Moriah		
Mt. Zion		
New Hebron	115.40	981.45
Old Union		
Pineview	454.00	4,832.00
Pondville	413.45	2,206.20
Randolph	663.48	6,439.36
Rehobeth	133.80	1,076.37
Schultz Creek	461.72	4,226.81
Shady Grove		2,067.00
Shady Grove 2		
Six Mile	369.35	2,604.95
Smith Hill	75.00	825.00
Thomas Mill	128.13	821.49
West Blocton 1st	200.00	1,000.00
Church Plant-Braehed	59.65	945.39
Anonymous	120.00	1,140.00
TOTALS	\$ 7,713.12	\$ 84,618.20
ALSBOM	443.08	3,995.72
OTHER		22,542.77
TOTAL	\$ 8,156.20	\$ 111,156.69