

Living Waters Chapel
1900 Jay St., Lebanon, PA 17046

~ *SERMON NOTES* ~

Pastor D. Dean Cover
May 4, 2008

SERMON SERIES: *“Lord, Whatever It Takes, Change My Attitude Before It’s Too Late!”*

SERMON TITLE: *“Finding Faith When You Are Drowning in Doubt”- Part 5*

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 11: 13-19

THEME: Only when faith replaces doubt in the life of a Christian can the joy of knowing God become a reality.

INTRODUCTION: What do you do when life doesn’t turn out the way you expected? How do you respond to God when you don’t understand what He’s asking you to do? What do you do when life hurts and hurts deeply? The answer is we’re called to live by faith. But what does this faith look like in a practical way? There are three specific ingredients necessary for a life of faith taken from the life of Abraham.

I. TRUE FAITH REQUIRES OBEDIENCE (8-10)

- A. Faith requires obedience even when you can’t see where you’re going.
 - 1. Abraham walked by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7)
 - 2. The life of faith that requires obedience can be hard at times.
- B. Faith requires obedience even when you don’t understand what God is doing.
 - 1. We are able to trust in God no matter what because God is faithful and trustworthy.
- C. Faith requires obedience even when you don’t know how God is going to accomplish what He promises.

II. TRUE FAITH REQUIRES THE WILLINGNESS TO WAIT FOR GOD’S TIMING (12-16)

- A. The hardest times for believers are the in-between times, the times of waiting.
- B. Genesis 15:2-3
- C. Waiting for God is time that’s never wasted.
 - 1. God may be testing you to reveal how committed you really are.
 - 2. God is always working behind the scenes preparing the way.
 - 3. We never lose when we trust God in the dark.

III. TRUE FAITH REQUIRES A WILLINGNESS TO LIVE A LIFE OF SACRIFICE (16-19)

- A. The ultimate proof of faith is the willingness to sacrifice.
- B. Abraham demonstrated a willingness to give God the most important thing in his life, his son.
- C. What’s the most important thing in your life? God will never settle for being second place in your life. God is only interested in being in first place in your life and He will not settle for anything less.

CONCLUSION: Life can be compared to a riddle. It can be compared to a riddle which God wants you to experience but not necessarily solve. *1 Corinthians 13:12:* "For now we see (or understand) through a mirror, in a riddle, but then face to face."

The faith life that requires obedience, patience and sacrifice cannot be done in one’s own strength. What’s needed is the strength that comes from the power of the Holy Spirit. To live a life of faith one needs the power of the Holy Spirit in their life. Don’t ask for the will to obey, or the strength to wait or the willingness to sacrifice. Ask for the power of the Holy Spirit to infuse and control your life and the Holy Spirit will enable you to obey, wait and sacrifice as evidence of the faith filled life.