

## Can You See Heaven?

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

### ➤ Intro:

- Are you like Abraham? Do you have such faith that you can see heaven?
  - **Heb. 11:13a** died in faith, without receiving the promises, but saw and welcomed them
- by faith, they saw the fulfillment of God's promises, heaven, eternal life – Do you?

### ➤ When we live by faith, we can see heaven! – see and welcome God's promises

- **Heb. 11:1, 6** faith is **assurance** (substance) of things **hoped** for, the **conviction** (evidence) of things **not seen** - **illus.: promises, eternal life, heaven**
  - **illus.: parent promises a child a bike, 4 weeks before birthday**, child thinks about bike all the time, imagines riding, pretends what it will be like to have bike in garage, imagines walking out of house and jumping on and riding down the street – **saw the bike and welcomed the present, weeks before receiving**
  - **words and actions reflected confidence** – cleared spot in garage to store bike, bought helmet, told friends
- - **2 Cor. 5:7** walk by faith, not sight – context: resurrection, eternity in heaven
  - walk by faith, you can see heaven / walk by sight. . . .
- - **Heb. 11:8a** godly faith results in **obedience**
  - **illus.: Noah (Heb. 11:7)** warned, things not seen, obeyed, saved – **rf - 1 Pet. 3:21**
- - **Ja. 2:14-17, 18-20, 26** dead v. living faith – **disobedient v. obedient faith – demons**
  - **illus.: Ja. 2:21-25 Abraham and Rahab** examples of living / obedient faith
  - **illus.: fire in house** - fireman commands go to roof - living v. dead faith (obey / disobey)
  - have a living faith, you can see heaven / have a dead faith. . . .

- **Your actions reflect your faith – they saw and welcomed the promises – heaven**
  - **Heb. 11:8** Abraham, God called and he **went, not knowing where he was going**
    - **action:** go where God commands, do what God commands, without understanding all details
    - **2 Cor. 5:7** walk by faith, not sight
  - **see and welcome the promises – heaven, eternal life**
  
- - **Heb. 11:9-10** Abraham lived as **sojourner on earth, traveling to city of God, heaven**
  - **action:** live as alien, sojourner on earth, live as on a trip to heaven, goals and aims are heavenward
  - **illus.: How do you view life on earth? – death– worldly things**
  - **see and welcome the promises – heaven, eternal life**
  
- - **Heb. 11:11-12** Abraham and Sarah **believed God, not faint, did things thought to be impossible**
  - **action:** believe God, not doubt, excel in service to God, do things others think not possible
  - **illus. God blesses us:** abilities, opportunities, the fruitfulness of our labors, relationships, church, etc.
  - **Eph. 3:16, 20** strengthened with God, more than can imagine
  - **see and welcome the promises – heaven, eternal life**
  
- - **Heb. 11:13** they confessed, strangers and exiles. . . . – seen, welcomed promises – heaven, eternal life
  - **Heb. 11:14-16** what the confession showed / God's response
  - **What are you confessing. . . - mouth - action – see heaven, welcome heaven – R - Heb. 11:40**
  - **see and welcome the promises – heaven, eternal life**
  
- - **Heb. 11:17-19** faithful when tested
  - Abraham tested, sacrifice son through whom promise would come
  - **tests:** baptized, make self a living sacrifice, take up cross, sojourner, God working in you to accomplish His will, confess, fiery trials. . . .
  - **Pr. 17:3** Lord tests hearts
  - **see and welcome the promises – heaven, eternal life**
  
- - **Heb. 11:22** made future plans based on Scripture
  - Joseph gave orders, relating to hundred of years in the future, based on God's word
  - **action:** decisions make, words speak, certainty of things promised in God's word
  - **illus.: be in heaven** after this life, be with loved ones in Christ for eternity, saints of old alive in Christ
  - **illus. attitude toward future:** glass half full or half empty – God always accomplishes His will
  - **illus. attitude toward death:** not goodbye, but see you later
  - **see and welcome the promises – heaven, eternal life**
  
- - **Heb. 11:24-27** chose God over wealth and fame
  - Moses chose God over extreme wealth and prestige
  - **action:** God first in everything, pay any price, obey, reject passing pleasures of sin, not fear man
  - **illus.: love God and His word more** than anything or anyone – **choosing mate, friends, profession**
  - **see and welcome the promises – heaven, eternal life**

- - **Heb. 11:28 -30** trusted God for deliverance and victory, His way rather than man's way
  - Israel, trusted God for deliverance and victory, His way rather than man's way
  - **action:** trust and obey, confidence, reject man's ways when they conflict with God, fight battle's God's way
    - **illus. salvation:** many doctrines in world, obey God or man – pray prayer or baptized or remission
    - **illus. conflict at school or work:** handle God's way or man's way – love or hate enemy
  - see and welcome the promises – heaven, eternal life
  
- - **Heb. 11:31** turned away from the world to be with God – cf. Moses in Egypt
  - Rahab turned away from the world to be with God – cf. Moses in Egypt
  - **Heb. 13:12-14** leave world, sin, obtain heaven and eternal life
  - see and welcome the promises – heaven, eternal life

### Summary / Inv.

- **Do your actions reflect** that you see, and you're welcoming the promises – **heaven, eternal life?**
  - review PP
  - **Heb. 13:20-21** God equip you, work in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Christ
- - **Can you see heaven? Do you have the faith to see heaven?**
  - **inv.:** start on your journey today