WAITING FAITH

**DATE: 12/17/2014 Wed.**

**TEXT: Hebrews 11:13-16; 20-22**

**INTRODUCTION**

So far in **Chapter 11** we’ve looked at …

The Way, Worship (Abel), Walk (Enoch), Work (Noah), Willingness (Abram), and the Wonder (Sarah) of Faith

**Vs. 13-16** describes a Faith that is satisfied to Wait on God

***“These”*** (**v.13**) describes all these Patriarchs fully believing God

Though they never fully realized God's Promise,

They died with their Faith intact

Let’s look at several aspects of **“WAITING” FAITH**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

**I. “PATIENTS” - v.13a**

***“These all died in faith, not having received the promises,”***

These Old Testament believers not only took God at His Word,

But their entire life reflected what they believed

They were not distracted by the delay

God's timing was their timing

They all died living by Faith, though the promises hadn't been fulfilled

They didn't put God on trial and stop believing

They went to the grave with full assurance that though they hadn't seen the fulfillment,

God would still deliver on His promises

They were capable of Waiting

They had a Faith that endured to the end and beyond!

**THEY WERE “PATIENT”**

**II. “PERCEPTION” – v.13b**

**Perceptive –** *quick to understand, comprehend*

***“but having seen them afar off”***

These great men and women of Faith never set foot in that wonderful country they looked and longed for

They never moved out of their tents and settled down in their heavenly home

The fulfillment of God's promise was never realized in their lifetime

But these were men and women of vision

On their death bed they saw the fulfillment *“****afar off”***

They died with full assurance that God would fulfill His promises beyond their lifetime 

**THEY WERE “PERCEPTIVE”**

**THEY WERE “PATIENT”**

Next, we see …

**III. “PERSUASION” – v.13c**

When it comes to Waiting Faith we see that they …

***“… were persuaded of them, and embraced them”***

The word *“****persuaded”*** carries the idea of *having full assurance and confidence*

They didn't budge in their Faith because they had confidence in the One who had promised

The Bible says in **Romans 4:20, 21** that Abraham –

***“…staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;” “And being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform”***

-- He wasn't partially persuaded

-- He wasn't 99% persuaded

-- He was ***“Fully Persuaded”***

There was no mixture of doubt or unbelief

He was *“****fully persuaded”*** that God *“****was able also to perform”***

**II Tim. 1:12 – *“For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day”***

Not only is God absolutely trustworthy,

He has the ability to perform that which He promises

There was no doubt that God would do what He said

**THEY WERE “PERSUADED”**

**THEY WERE “PERCEPTIVE”**

**THEY WERE “PATIENT”**

Next, notice …

**IV. THEIR “PROFESSION” – vs. 13d, 14**

***“…and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth” “For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country”***

The word *“****confessed”*** means *to profess, to acknowledge*

True Faith speaks out

Faith that doesn't testify is not real Faith

Peter and John testified in **Acts 4:20 – *“For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard”***

When God does a work in our heart, it’s difficult to keep quiet

What did they profess?

That they were ***“strangers and pilgrims on the earth”***

Many today make a cheap profession while never really separating from the world

With their lips they profess Christ, but with their life they deny Him

Worldliness is still sin, even in the 21st Century

**I John 2:15** declares – ***“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him”***

Christianity and the world’s system don’t mix

**Ephesians 5:11** says ***“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them”***

These Old Testament saints stood up, clearly confessing their God and declaring that this world was not their home

May God's people realize that we are Strangers, not Settlers in this wicked world

We see…

**THEIR “PROFESSION” OF FAITH**

**THEY WERE ALSO “PERSUADED”**

**THEY WERE “PERCEPTIVE”**

**THEY WERE “PATIENT”**

Next Notice …

**V. THEIR “PERSISTENT” – vs. 15, 16a**

**Persistent –** *continuing despite problems, Pressing on!*

***“And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned” “But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly:”***

The word *“****mindful”*** means *to exercise the memory, to rehearse, to consider*

This is what gets a lot of people in trouble

They hang on to their past

They can't get their mind off of yesterday

They let their minds wander back to the old days and the devil uses it to steal away their heart

But not these Old Testament saints!

They didn't sit around and think about how good thing were back in the *“****country from whence they came out”***

The leaks and the onions

Had that been the case they *“****might have had opportunity to have returned”***

Yes! They could have follow their flesh back to their homeland

They could have …

-- had a house instead of a tent

-- settled down instead of wandering

-- fit in instead of being a stranger

***“But …* v.16a** says … ***now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly…”***

They did not go back on the Lord

Their desire was Not to go back, but to go forward

They fixed their hearts upon a city whose Builder and Maker is God and they Pressed on in Faith

**THEY WERE “PERSISTENT”**

**WE HAD A “PROFESSION”**

**THEY WERE “PERSUADED”**

**THEY WERE “PERCEPTIVE”**

**THEY WERE “PATIENT”**

We also see …

**VI. THEIR “PASSION” – v.16b**

***“…wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for He hath prepared for them a city”***

So Passionate was their Faith that it touched the heart of God

*God is not ashamed to be called their God*

What a declaration!

This is the Holy, Righteous, Sovereign God of Heaven we are talking about here

And He is not ashamed to identify Himself with those who believe in and continually trust Him

This is the kind of believer I want to be!

This is the kind of believer we ought to be!

**THEY WERE “PASSIONATE”**

**THEY WERE “PERSISTENT”**

**WE SEE THEIR “PROFESSION”**

**THEY WERE “PERSUADED”**

**THEY WERE “PERCEPTIVE”**

**THEY WERE “PATIENT”**

And the last thing we see in their Waiting Faith was …

**VII. THEIR “PARTING” –** skip down to **vs. 20, 21**

***“By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come” “By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff”***

Here are 3 men … Isaac, Jacob and Joseph mentioned

Whose Faith can be witnessed by the blessings they issued on their deathbed

In **v.20** we find the historical account of ***“Isaac’s”*** blessing of **Genesis 27**

Isaac was on his deathbed and even though he had not seen the fulfillment of God's promise …

He still had Faith that God would deliver

Therefore, he could bless his sons ***“concerning things to come”***

In **v.21** we see Paul describing ***“Jacob”*** passing on the patriarchal blessing to Joseph's sons …

Believing God and anticipating the time that they would return home to fulfill the promises

**THEY HAD “DYING OR PARTING” FAITH**

**THEY WERE “PASSIONATE”**

**THEY WERE “PERSISTENT”**

**WE SEE THEIR “PROFESSION”**

**THEY WERE FULLY “PERSUADED”**

**THEY WERE “PERCEPTIVE”**

**THEY WERE “PATIENT”**

**CONCLUSION – v.22**

***“By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones”***

This is Simple Faith, taking God at His word

Even on his deathbed, Joseph's faith stood fast

Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying,

**Genesis 50:25 - *“God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence”***

This was based on the promise made to Abraham

**Genesis 15:13, 14 –** ***“And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years;” “And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance”***

Joseph made his relatives promise that when God visited the children of Israel and took them out of Egypt into the land of Canaan …

That his bones would be carried out with them and be buried in Canaan

He still believed that God would keep His promise

Even though he was dead

Surely these all Waited in Faith

**THEY WERE “PATIENT”**

**THEY WERE “PERCEPTIVE”**

**THEY WERE “PERSUADED”**

**THEY HAD A “PROFESSION”**

**THEY WERE “PERSISTENT”**

**THEY WERE “PASSIONATE”**

**THEY HAD “WAITING” FAITH**