<u>The Letter To The Hebrews</u>
How To Obey When It Feels Impossible
Hebrews 11:17-22

<u>Introduction</u>
All through the Bible we read that it's important to obey God.
But often we face situations where obedience feels impossible.
In today's passage the author tells us how Abraham obeyed when it seemed impossible.

<u>What did God call Abraham to do</u>? (17a)
This is explained in more detail in Genesis 22:1-2.
God had promised Abraham and Sarah a son — through whom Abraham would be the father of a great nation.
Abraham and Sarah waited for this son for decades.
But finally they got pregnant, and Isaac was born.
But a few years later, God called Abraham to sacrifice Isaac.

<u>Why would this have seemed impossible</u>? (17-18)
It's because Isaac was Abraham's only son (17b)
And because God had promised to give Abraham offspring through Isaac (18)
But even though this would have seemed impossible, Abraham set out to obey God.

<u>How did Abraham obey when it felt impossible</u>? (19)
It's because Abraham knew that if he sacrificed Isaac, God would raise Isaac from the dead.
We know that's what was in Abraham's mind because of Genesis 22:22 — here Abraham tells his servants that both he AND ISAAC will return to them.
So Abraham knew that since God had promised him offspring through Isaac, and since God is al ways faithful to His promises — that if he sacrificed Isaac God would raise him from the dead.
So Abraham was enabled to obey because he trusted God to be faithful to His promises.

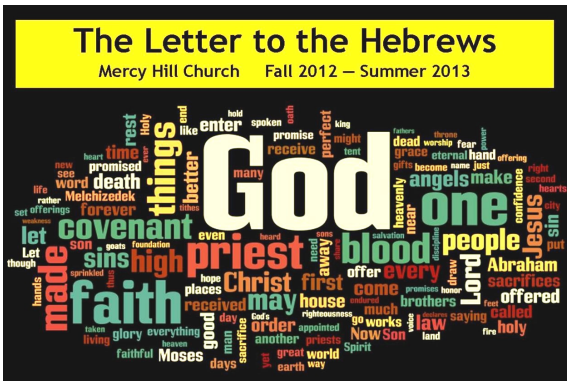
<u>Was God faithful to His promises</u>? (vv.20-21)
V.20 — Isaac blessing his sons Jacob and Esau shows that God is bringing Abraham offspring through Isaac.
V.21 — Jacob blessing the sons of Joseph shows the same.
V.22 — Joseph speaking of Israel's exodus from Egypt shows the same.
So was God faithful to His promises. YES.

<u>How can we obey when it feels impossible</u>? (13-16)
Can't see how your obedience will turn out well? Trust John 13:17.

Don't have the strength to obey? Phil 4:13.

Don't have the ability to obey? 2Cor 9:8

Don't have the faith to believe God? Rom 10:17



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

What are some reasons obedience can feel impossible?

What situations are you facing in which your obedience feels impossible?

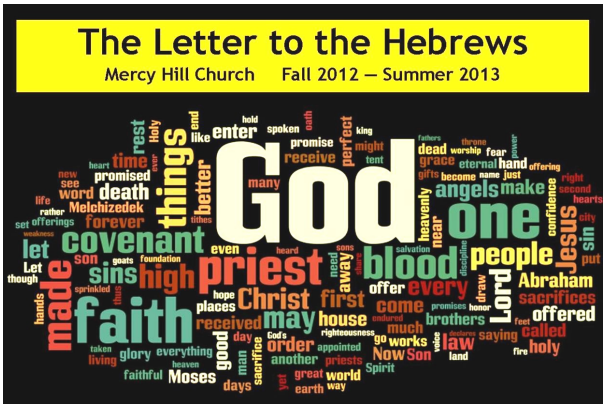
In the past, how have you responded when obedience felt impossible?

What difference does it make to understand that it was by faith that Abraham was able to obey when it felt impossible?

What does it really mean to do something "by faith"? How can we avoid having that just become another word for me just doing what I'm supposed to be doing?

What can you do to continue in obedience even when it feels impossible?

Which of the four scenarios and promises hit home the most to you (see last question on the other side of this page).

What was God saying to you through Sunday's teaching?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.