



Hebrews 11:13-16

By Faith Waiting & Wanting Heaven Sun, Nov 2nd 2008

Question: Is God proud of you?

- If you could ease drop on a conversation that God is having about you, what would He be saying?

Some are thinking – that you doubt God even thinks about you, much less speaks

- Simply, you are wrong – God does know you and think about you
- **Ps 139:1-3, 17-18** Such knowledge is wild **Ps 139:6**

This morning I want to tell you it is possible for God to be proud of you

- I want to show you, in His Word, how you can make God proud

Quick Review of where we are – Hebrews, specifically Hall of Faith

- Faith – key of salvation, key of living, pleasing God
- Descriptions are helpful – examples are priceless
- By Faith – understand God created
- By Faith Abel sacrificed, approached God acceptable
- By Faith Enoch pleased God and walked with Him
- By Faith Noah heard God’s warnings, responded and lived
- By Faith Abraham (granddaddy of faith)
 - Went out...not knowing where going – followed God
 - Received the impossible

Today – “by faith these all” – who is the these all?

- Is it the entire list? Is possible and in part would be true
 - Yet not all died in faith - Enoch
 - Better – still talking about Abraham...and his wife, and son, grandson **v.9**
 - Could be addressing that all lived with Abraham...possible
 - More...they all lived the same way
 - Abraham came from Ur...time in Haran...to promised land
 - Lived rest of his life in the land – God giving him.
 - Yet...lived in tents...never owned anything but a grave
 - Isaac does the same, Jacob the same
 - Jacob and Israel go to Egypt...400 years...then out as a nation
 - Something about the way Abe and sons lived – speaking to us today
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I. By Faith...Willing to Wait

1. Good description...difficult description

- a. Wait – literally a four letter word...hardly anything harder
- b. Longer the wait...the greater the difficulty. Here...waiting whole life

c. Rom 8:18-25

2. All that I want and need to say today – summed up in that word wait

3. We don't like waiting...our world does not like waiting

- a. A bird in the hand is worthy two in the bush
- b. Pilgrim's Progress quote

II. Making of Waiting Faith

1. What I love about this is it shows us that this is a process

- a. Nobody has this automatically...something grown, nurtured

2. 1st – Seeing...seeing what God is promising us

- a. This is where it begins – that you see it. How?
- b. Faith comes by hearing...and hearing by the Word of God
 - i) This book is filled with descriptions, promises
 - ii) Almost every Old Testament prophet pattern – confrontation, promise
 - iii) Constant theme...you need to see it here in the Word

3. 2nd – Assured- has the idea of made confident, really believing it

- a. See it in the book is one thing...but coming to the place you believe it
- b. That is faith – hearing and believing what you read

4. 3rd - Embracing – picture of wrapping your arms around

- a. Delighting in, wanting, accepting

5. 4th - Confessing - agreeing with God who and what we are

- a. Looking at world – knowing, saying – I don't fit – I am a pilgrim
- b. Being a person that is living...waiting for good things to come

6. Honest question....where are you on this list

- a. Do you know what this book promises?
- b. Do you believe it?
- c. Are you embracing it, loving it, living for it, rejoicing in it?
- d. Has it brought you to a place you know you are a pilgrim
- e. See the pattern...and realize the steps God is bringing you on, through

III. Reality of Waiting Faith

1. Experienced & Evidenced...

- a. Such faith is something we experience – is real personally
- b. Such faith is something we evidence – prove and show to others...how

2. ...by our Words

- a. Those who are here – they say it...continually...and with reality
- b. Notice how it reads... “those who say such things”
- c. Personally – believe this is to be a daily prayer**
 - i) Lord’s prayer is an example prayer for us. Quickly work through
 - ii) Notice – we are to pray for His Kingdom to come. Daily fix heart, prayers
 - iii) For me...needed & wonderful time. Not uncommon to pray these verses
 - iv) But also a whole litany...in my daily reading and more
 - v) Phil 3:20-21, John 14:1-3**
- d. If you have such faith...your words will say so

3. ...by our Actions

- a. This is a vitally important point...which need to hear.**
 - i) Easy to say we want heaven...harder...where real is found, in actions
 - ii) At most funerals – gone to a better place...when often not true
 - iii) But the way we live here – not consistent.
 - b. For Abraham...and those like him – it is to declare plainly – clearly**
 - i) Their words, only explain their actions...verify them
 - ii) If were to “mute” Abraham’s words – watch life...wild, why live in tents?
 - iii) For you....do your actions show this...live this?
 - c. Ask it this way...are you an Abraham or a Lot?**
 - i) Abraham lived separate from the world, Lot lived pursuing world
 - ii) Go with me to Genesis 13
 - A. Notice how Abraham living v.1-4 – tent, altar, prayer
 - B. Need to separate from Lot – notice Abraham’s non clinging
 - C. Notice v.10-13 – Lot saw, Lot chose for himself...dwelt...near Sodom
 - D. Then Notice Abraham’s promises...and living
 - E. Abraham left a blessing...Lot a curse
 - d. Our lives are clearly meant to be Pilgrim lives**
 - i) 1 Peter 2:11-12, 4:1-5
 - e. Have opportunity often. Perhaps in financial crisis, elections**
 - f. Notice, actions verify...not going back to the world**
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- i) For those like Abraham – not that can't have the world...impossible
 - ii) No, they could have gone back...it was possible.
 - iii) But stayed – didn't go back to the world
- g. So heavenly minded that you are no earthly good?
- i) Not really possible....not Biblical
 - ii) CS Lewis - *Hope...means...a continual looking forward to the eternal...It does not mean that we are to leave the present world as it is. If you read history you will find that the Christians who did the most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next...it is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. Aim at Heaven and you will get earth "thrown in"; aim at earth and you will get neither"*

4. ...by our Desires

- a. Something huge in this...why titled msg waiting...and wanting heave
- b. What these want...is what is above- heart fixed on it
- c. 2 Cor 5:1-6
- d. Matthew 6:21-25
- e. It is an issue of your heart...what you really want

Conclusion

Honor of Waiting Faith

- **These like Abraham – God is not ashamed to be called their God**
- **What mean?**
 - Some feel is true of all Christians. I don't think so – guts of power
- **Hear me clearly – God loves you – every one of you**
 - So loved the world that He gave His Son
- **If you are not saved – calling You to Him...and eternal life**
 - What that verse goes on to say, right – Jn 3:16
- **Christians – possible to be loved by God...yet not have His pride**
 - Simple illustration – imagine in a family today – right, good family
 - When child misbehaves, rebels – not an issue of love
 - In fact, love is often more felt...yearning for
 - Yet – in rebellion – you are not proud of your child
 - Still your child...still loved – but is an embarrassment
 - Some of you here – God loves...but is not proud of
- **Asked at the Beginning – is God proud of you?**
 - Don't make that beyond reach
 - Give a cup of cold water in His name – reward
 - When you say and live Pilgrim life – God is proud of you
 - None of you are perfect....so don't miss this
 - In family, if kids do well...still issues you long for, want more
 - Yet..at each thing they do right...you are proud
- **Today...You can make God proud of you**
 - Become His
 - Grow in this – say this to Him – plainly
 - This week – you will have opportunity to live this out
 - Want you to see God's smile at your living this out

And guys...the promises of God...are not a pipe dream...vain

- He has prepared a city for us