

## “Heroes of the Faith #4 – “Go Pack Your Bags”

In an issue of Meat & Poultry magazine, the following story was published for all to see.

*The US Federal Aviation Administration has a unique device for testing the strength of windshields on airplanes. The device is a gun that launches a dead chicken at a plane's windshield at approximately the speed the plane flies. The theory is that if the windshield doesn't crack from the carcass impact, it'll survive a real collision with a bird during flight. It seems the British were very interested in this and wanted to test a windshield on a brand new, speedy locomotive they were developing. They borrowed the FAA's chicken launcher, loaded the chicken and fired. The ballistic chicken shattered the windshield, broke the engineer's chair and embedded itself in the back wall of the engine's cab. The British were stunned and asked the FAA to recheck the test to see if everything was done correctly. The FAA reviewed the test thoroughly and had one recommendation: "Use a thawed chicken!"*



I thought we needed a little humor to begin our time together and yes, this is an absurd story. It does however, illustrate an important point as I write about our next “Heroes of the Faith”. Don’t forget our theme for the year . . . “Believing God for the Impossible”. Together we want to see the power of God unleashed upon our CBNC churches. We want to see many come to faith in Christ, churches become healthier, leaders developed, churches planted and a greater connectivity among all churches within our vast region.

To reinforce the truth that God can do what is impossible, there is a consistent pattern throughout the entire Bible. It indicates that God has clear, precise and proven methods to carry out His redemptive plans for man. The slightest deviation from this plan in any way will bring disastrous results, like the frozen chicken going through the windshield. As already stated, life with God in ministry demands faith. I have learned over the years that God will not deviate from His plan to give me opportunities to trust Him for what is impossible. Even with the “father of faith”, Abraham? That is correct.

Let me encourage you to pick up your Bible and read Hebrews 11:8-19. I want to point out some key ministry principles that Abraham modeled for us, when it came to “believing God for the impossible”. Ready to go?

He believed and obeyed God by faith when . . .



### 1. He did not know WHERE he was going.

Verse 8 is great. It says, “By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.”

Personally, I don’t think Abraham had any intention of leaving Ur, Haran or settling in Canaan. Can you even imagine how hard it is to leave your home having no clue where you’re going? Nobody does that anymore. Now days, we hardly go around the block without using our GPS or Google Maps. As soon as Abraham heard what God was saying, he started packing. That’s called instant obedience.

Have you identified the Ur in your life or ministry? Maybe God is asking you to do something impossible at church. Maybe you are to go somewhere that simply makes no sense in your current ministry assignment. Like Abraham, you will have to deny your past, give up something significant and start packing without details.

2. He did not know HOW God's will would be accomplished.

Verse 11-12 says it all for me. Ok, call me out of touch, but I have never heard of a 99 year old man and a 90 year old woman giving birth to a child. Imagine the absolute absurdity in the mind of this husband and wife. Why? A body that old is not meant to function well enough to have a child.

What is incredible to me here is not so much that Abraham and Sarah had a child while being impotent and sterile, because God is a God of impossible situations. What stands out to me is that Abraham simply believed God at His Word and that was it.

Here is a dose of reality. I don't believe God is going to give us the luxury of knowing HOW His will is going to be accomplished in our lives or ministry. The issue is not, can God do this one thing that is absolutely huge and impossible for me? Here is the greater issue. Am I able to step out in faith by believing and obeying God when He speaks to me about what is impossible?

Lastly, Abraham believed and obeyed God by faith when . . .

3. He did not know WHAT God was doing.

*"By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son . . ." (Hebrews 11:17)*

We had a "no brainer" going here. God wants to establish His Great Name among mankind, so He makes an everlasting covenant relationship with a man of the world. At the ripe old age of 100, God unconditionally promises Abraham that He will have a son. Through this son, God will establish His name and make a powerful nation. At the end of his life, God asks this old man to take his 33-year-old son to the top of Mt. Moriah and offer him as a sacrifice.

Does this make sense to you? God makes an unconditional promise to Abraham about having a son, out of which He will make a mighty nation and now God wants to kill him. When Abraham obeyed God to leave Ur, he simply had to give up his past. But when he was summoned to Mt. Moriah to deliver his son to God, he was asked to surrender his future as well.

I don't think Abraham had a clue as to why God would ask him to kill his son. Because of the friendship and the trust that he had with God, he knew that somehow God would raise Isaac from the dead. When a test of faith is passed and you believe God for what He says, then a credit of righteousness is given to you.

If we were completely honest, we would say sometimes the things that God does or asks us to do just don't make sense. RIGHT? We still must believe Him at His Word and then obey it no matter what the outcome.

Is there anything too hard for you right now in your family or church? Maybe it is time for a miracle. God will always do what He says, but watch out for that frozen chicken.

*Pat Phinney*  
*CB North Central Regional Director*