



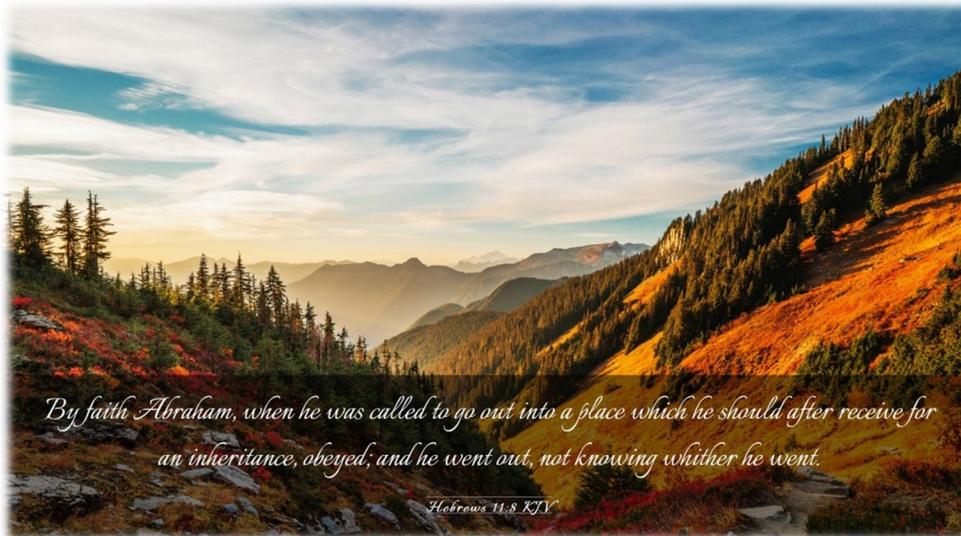
He Looked For A City

In Hebrews 11, the writer gives many illustrations of Old Testament “heroes.” The text reveals how the just lived by faith and the result of such living. I find it interesting that Abraham believed and followed God’s commandments into such a drastic change of lifestyle. In vv. 8-10, we read:

“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. By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.”

Being asked to leave your home and family to wander about living in tents would be a tremendous test of faith for any of us. The hardships that we would encounter would be overbearing because of the modern conveniences we enjoy today. Plus, to leave home without knowing where you were going would stress out the majority of people; but, it did not stop Abraham.

Would we have such faith if God asked us to do the same? I am afraid it would be so frightening that many people would lose their faith before doing such. Thankfully, God doesn’t place this kind of demand on us today. But there are commandments that God does give us that we treat just as if we were asked to leave our homes. Abraham was asked to leave his home to follow God’s will; likewise, we are asked to “leave” our homes to go out and teach others about Jesus. Many people are hindered from teaching others out of great fear of rejection and what others might think of them. Abraham departed from his home without fear because he had great faith in God. Will we leave the comforts of our home to obey God and go out to teach the lost?



By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

Hebrews 11:8 KJV

Abraham went out looking for “a city of God.” It did not bother Abraham to endure the trials and hardships because he was looking for a heavenly home. In Hebrews 11.16, we read, ***“But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared for them a city.”*** Abraham did not focus on the things of the world; he longed for being in the city of God. Have we become so comfortable and attached to our physical possessions that we no longer

hunger and thirst for the kingdom of God? Heaven awaits the faithful and true; but, do we actually look for and anticipate its arrival? In the heavenly city, God will dwell with those who are faithful; and, they shall be His people, and He shall be their God (Revelation 21.3). Are you looking for “a city?” Gary

Entering By Force

Acts 14.21, 22

1. Have you ever had to force your way into something?
2. Were you filled with strong determination that you were going to succeed?
3. Do you think living as a Christian is a struggle? (Ephesians 6.12; Hebrews 4.11).
4. Is it possible to stroll into heaven with our hands in our pockets?
5. **Please open your Bibles to Matthew 11.12-15.**

I. Am I _____ Than John (Matthew 11.1-11)?

- A. Why do you think John the Baptist was filled with _____?
 1. Where was John at this time?
 2. Had John faced _____?
- B. Why am I greater than John?
 1. Jesus said that John was greater than anyone _____ of a _____.
 2. I am greater than John because I am a _____.
 - (a) I am not just born of a woman, but I am _____ by the power of God.
 - (b) I am part of the _____.

II. How Were The _____ Taking The Kingdom By _____?

- A. How did the people respond to Jesus?
 1. So intense was their desire to hear the Savior that the multitudes pressed upon Him.
 - (a) They ran to Jesus and pushed and shoved to get near Him.
 - (b) Remember Zacchaeus (Luke 19.1-10)?
 2. What does it mean that *“the violent take it by force”*?
 - (a) What about the _____ who came to Jesus (Mark 1.40-45)?
 - (b) What about the _____ with the issue of _____ (Mk. 5.25-34)?
- B. Jesus spoke of those who _____ both John and Himself.
 1. Some rejected Jesus because He didn't fit their preconceived ideas of the coming _____.
 2. Many came to Jesus as desperate _____ seeking _____.

III. What Does All Of This Have To Do With _____?

- A. It will take _____ and total _____ to enter the kingdom of heaven.
 1. To help us in the battle of good versus evil, we are to put on the _____ of God.
 2. What am I willing to do to enter into heaven?
- B. Jesus demands that we think about our concept of _____.
 1. Has _____ righteousness secured you a place in the kingdom of heaven?
 2. As Christians, we must continue to _____ toward heaven.
 3. Our journey of faith urges us to cultivate spiritual zeal.
 4. It calls upon us to have unshakeable _____ and _____ for God.

Conclusion: Are you ready for a life of self-sacrifice and self-denial as a child of God?

C O N N E C T I O N

C Good morning, Western Hills! Today we are featuring Wayne Gary in our Connection Corner.

R Wayne was born here in FW and attended Haltom High School. He played in every type of band that he could. He played trumpet, then French horn, but fell in love with the baritone. He favored marching band, and was selected drum major for his junior and senior years. The band was able to participate in music expos those years, featuring conductors Meredith Willson (who wrote the musical "Music Man") and Henry Mancini (who wrote many movie title scores such as "The Pink Panther" and "Romeo & Juliet.")



Immediately following graduation, Wayne joined the Navy and trained on a WW-II Navy destroyer escort, the "USS Howard D. Crow." He says some evenings they watched movies on the fantail, and the best seat in the house was laying on live depth charges (some guys were even smoking.) "We didn't always think things all the way through at that age," he said. He and the rest of the crew survived sailing through a severe tropical storm, taking quite a physical beating in the process. He then was transferred to the carrier "USS Ranger," working in the personnel office. Following sea duty, Wayne went to communications school, finishing service as a morse code operator in the Philippines.

After returning to the States, Wayne went to school to learn computer programming and took a job working for TCJC. He had a natural aptitude for computers, eventually working for a service bureau company before starting his own service business. He was hired by Arlington ISD in the computer department, completing eight years before accepting a department management position with Tarrant County in IT. He retired from the county after 22 years there.

Wayne met his wife, Quin Qin, when he was recovering from a broken neck suffered in a fall. She was a nurse and helped care for him during his rehab. They kept in touch after he left the hospital and married several months later. Wayne was an avid motorcycle rider with the "Chula Chaser" MC Club, where he and his companions raised about \$100k a year for Tarrant County MHMR services. He has taken motorcycle road trips through all lower states and Canada. Wayne has 2 sons and 6 grandsons. An interesting note, Wayne says there have been no girls born into his family in 100 yrs! I encourage you to seek Wayne and Quin out and get to know them better, you'll be blessed!

Les Keele



This week's shut-in spotlight shines on:

Please send them a note of encouragement or give them a call to let them know we still care.

*Bea House
4308 Springbranch
Fort Worth, Texas 76116
817-244-3649
Visits and Calls
Please Call Ahead*

*Charles and Lillian Kite
8409 Palo Duro Court
Fort Worth, Texas 76116
817-244-7299
Visits and Calls
Please Call Ahead*

SHEPHERDS

Greg Ball	214-801-7375
Russ Bartee	817-938-5825
Dan Kille	817-793-7493
Chuck Meyer	682-553-5444
*Tom Pauley	817- 370-5515
Ross Tomlinson	682-429-1983
John Walton	817-441-0000

*Shepherd of the month

MINISTERS

Gary Williams: <i>Pulpit Minister</i>	662-321-3208
Les Keele: <i>Associate Minister</i>	817-808-0566
James Bowie: <i>Youth Minister</i>	817-944-4492

LAOTIAN MINISTRY

John Boudtaroth 817-891-2132

DEACONS

Jon Bartee	817-889-2686
David Birdow	972-310-1143
James Bowie	817-944-4492
Zach Brookshire	817-296-9918
Brandon Duncan	903-603-1059
Jay Garner	817-205-2070
Ben Meyer	817-673-8557
Robert Scott	817-246-0911
Matt Sloan	405-471-3404
Steve Taylor	817-291-2065
Buck Thomas	817-733-2620
Arthur Torrez	817-721-2726

MORNING WORSHIP (10 AM)

Welcome -

Song Leader - Jonathan Bartee

Song - We're Marching To Zion

Song - When Upon Life's Billows

Song - I Love You, Lord

Prayer - Glen Baird

Scripture - Acts 14:21, 22

Song - Come, Share The Lord

Lord's Supper - Arthur Torrez

Prayer for Contribution - Arthur Torrez

Song - He Gave Me A Song

Entering By Force - Gary Williams

Song - Anywhere With Jesus

Announcements - Les Keele

Shepherd's Prayer & Dismissal - Tom Pauley



Attended Nursery: After communion, we have an attended nursery available for ages birth to 3 years and a mother's nursing room.

Single-side in-ear mono earbuds with personal receivers are available for those with hearing difficulties. Please see the sound booth at the back of the auditorium for assistance.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday, December 9

I Thessalonians 1 - 4

Tuesday, December 10

I Thess. 5 - II Thess. 2

Wednesday, December 11

II Thess. 3 - I Tim. 3

Thursday, December 12

I Timothy 4 - 6

Friday, December 13

II Timothy 1 - 4

Saturday, December 14

Titus 1 - Philemon

Sunday, December 15

Hebrews 1 - 4

Last Week

Bible Class	129	Wednesday	108
Worship	225	Contribution	\$ 15,650.41
PM Worship	41	Budget	\$ 13,802.88

Times of Assemblies

Bible Class:	9:00 AM
Sunday Morning Worship:	10:00 AM
Sunday Evening Worship:	5:00 PM
Wednesday Evening:	7:00 PM

PRAYER REQUESTS

FAMILY

NAME	SITUATION	PRAY FOR
Betty Kille 12/06/2024	Is at home with pneumonia. 4112 Arroyo Trail, Fort Worth, Texas 76135	Complete healing and renewed strength
Dahlia Cade 12/05/2024	Will have hip replacement surgery. 3832 Kelvin Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas 76133	Strength and swift recovery
Nancy Wright 11/11/2024	Is back in Stonegate Rehab, Room 115. 8601 Cook Ranch Road, Apartment 350, Benbrook, Texas 76126	Healing and comfort
Brandon Duncan 11/7/2024	Is having issues with controlling his blood pressure. 9928 Farmington, Benbrook, Texas 76126	A quick solution for correcting his blood pressure
James and Bridget Yawn 10/31/2024	James had his surgery and has returned home. 9213 Idaho Street, Joshua, Texas 76058	Swift healing and recovery for James and strength for Bridget while she is the caregiver
Bill Baumann 10/20/2024	Has been diagnosed with both lung and prostate cancer. In the weeks to come, the doctors will be developing a plan of treatment.	Healing, peace; skill and knowledge for the doctors

FRIENDS

NAME	REQUESTED	SITUATION	PRAY FOR
Dad and Wife of	Russ Jones	Both will be having biopsies this month.	Good results 12/01/2024
Dorene Helton, sister-in-law of	Vickie Bowers	Cancerous mass was discovered. Her chemo begins Tuesday and then surgery will follow treatments.	Strength and successful treatments and surgery 12/05/2024
Cook Family, friends of	Paula Williams	Robin Cook passed away 2 weeks ago.	Comfort for the family 12/01/2024
Jean (John) Saba Husband of,	Dana Saba	He is having serious heart issues. At this moment, the doctors are treating with medication.	The medication will control the issue and surgery will not be necessary 11/7/2024
Joanne Powers, mother of	Adam Powers	She needs an aortic valve surgery.	God to guide the surgeons, good results, and recovery
Lisa Harriman		Has been diagnosed with cancer of her breast, colon and liver. She is doing chemo and still working. 400 North Tacoma Street, Farmington, Arkansas 72730	The doctors and therapists, successful surgeries and treatment, peace of mind 09/11/2024
Sangkip Bouapraseth, father of	Kasie Muongnamvong	Has stage 4 pancreatic cancer.	Healing and pain control 7/17/2024

All prayer requests are published for 30 days and then removed unless the office is notified to continue the announcement.

SMALL GROUPS

For the next several weeks, our small groups are taking a break. The groups will resume meeting on January 12, 2025.

BIBLE CLASSES

We wish to inform you that there will be no ladies' or men's Bible class on Tuesday mornings December 17 - January 6. Classes will resume on January 7, 2025. We look forward to seeing you then! Wishing you all a joyful holiday season!

WINTER QUARTER CLASSES

SUNDAY	WEDNESDAY
DIVINE SHADOWS	GRACE
LESS KEELE	GARY WILLIAMS

NEW ADDRESS

JEAN WIGGINS

Has been moved into Memory Care
Brookdale At Tanglewood Oaks Room 72
2698 South Hulen Street , Fort Worth, Texas 76109-5593

NEW MEMBERS

Latrice Tucker

8000 Clamont #116, Fort Worth, Texas 76116

682-816-2175

Russ Jones and his children Alyssa, Adilyn, Caleb, and Charity

1705 Burlson Retta Road, Burlson, Texas 76028

817-988-8182

LADIES' FELLOWSHIP



LADIES' FELLOWSHIP BRUNCH

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

9 - 11 AM

PLEASE BRING A BRUNCH ITEM TO SHARE.

WE WILL BE MAKING CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS - ONE TO KEEP AND ONE TO GIVE AWAY.

COME AND ENJOY THE FELLOWSHIP!

PILLOW MINISTRY



The Pillow Ministry will meet next week, December 10, after Ladies' Bible Class. We will be finishing up some projects that have already been started. If you can come (even for a short time), bring a sack lunch, and enjoy fellowship and service together.

OFFICE EMERGENCY PANTRY

OFFICE PANTRY

We have a pantry in the office, separate and apart from the Food Bank, for emergencies.

We are in need of the following items:

CANNED CHILI

CANNED MEATS

SOUPS

CANNED MILK

DRIED BEANS

HOT/COLD CEREALS

DRIED PASTA

POWDERED MILK

If you are able to help provide any of these items, please drop them off in the office.

Thank you!



Happy Birthday December

1 Kao Chanthanounsy

2 René Johnston

2 Melissa Montanez

2 Jeff Thiravong

2 Ross Tomlinson

3 Robert Bow

4 Jean Cox

4 Adams Powers

4 Bev Pratt

7 Kristie McLeroy

8 Lee Bradley

8 Thomas Chakrathouk

9 Dorothy Anderson

10 Christina Intharansy

12 Lorenza Fernandez

12 Martin Franz

12 Thonglouath Manyloun

12 Auna Walton

14 Wayne Gary

17 Gloria Speak

17 Jake DeKoker

18 LaRue Bow

19 Steven Johnston

20 Jeremy Swan

20 Mary Jo Winters

21 Chuck King

22 Bob Willyerd

23 Ronny Tucker

24 Betty Adams

24 Lucille Patterson

26 Zach Brookshire

30 Jay Garner

30 Cassidy Tunnell

30 Karen Haas

31 Thienxay Manyloun

CHILDREN

10 Tanner Chakrathouk

13 Ian Thomas

27 Jonathan Everett

30 Jack Meyers

ANNIVERSARIES:

Dec 5

Sandra & Tommy Wade 60th

Dec 14

Amy & Jonathan Bartee 22nd