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오늘의 말씀

"Faith is Direction, Not Just Conviction"

[Hebrews 11:8]

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

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Today again, we begin with the fixed declaration of this series: “Living as a true believer is not about trying harder, but about living aligned with the Spirit.”

Introduction ~ From the Upper Room to the Road of the Cross
Recently, through our early morning services, we reflected on Jesus’ words to His troubled disciples in John 13–14. Jesus did not rebuke their anxiety. Instead, He said, “You believe in God; believe also in Me.” The circumstances remained the same, and the cross was unavoidable. Yet He realigned the direction of their faith toward Himself. Then He said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” Here we learn something crucial: faith is not merely psychological comfort; it is an invitation to change one’s way. Jesus does not simply say, “Believe.” He says, “Follow Me.” Faith does not end with intellectual agreement—it must be proven on the road.

Main Message

The writer of Hebrews defines Abraham’s faith as this: faith is leaving.

[Hebrews 11:8] By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

The word “obeyed” here in Greek is *hypakouō* (ὑπακούω). It is a compound of *hypo* (under) and *akouō* (to hear)—literally, “to hear under.” It means to listen under authority and to follow accordingly.

Obedience is not merely an action; it is the direction of one’s listening. Abraham did not leave because he fully understood the plan. He did not move only after receiving a complete map. Hebrews tells us, “He went out, not knowing where he was going.” Faith is not waiting until certainty is complete; it is changing

direction when the call is heard.

Obedience does not stop at emotional conviction—it moves. It responds immediately. Many of us say, “I will obey when my heart is ready.” “I will move when I feel more convinced.” But biblical obedience is not action after emotional assurance; it is move-ment after hearing God’s voice. Hypakouō means “to hear and respond.” If we hear but do not move, that is not biblical obedience.

Each time we study Abraham, we notice his immediate obedience. When he was commanded to leave Ur of the Chaldeans, he moved at once. His journey toward complete obedience took time and refinement. Not everything was perfect, but he moved immediately.

The clearest expression of this immediate obedience appears when he was commanded to take Isaac to Mount Moriah and offer him as a burnt offering. Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and set out with two servants. There are important details here. The journey from his dwelling place to Moriah could have taken many days. Yet he departed early and arrived on the third day. He brought servants with him and could have delegated every task. Yet he chose to obey personally and directly. He left the servants below and went up the mountain with Isaac alone. Why? If the servants had gone up with him, they could have carried the wood, prepared the fire, and assisted in every practical matter. But Abraham removed potential obstacles to obedience from the beginning. Had the servants understood his intention, they might have restrained him by force. Abraham eliminated any source of compromise.

As we learned in the sermon titled “God’s Love Revealed at Calvary,” Isaac was likely at least in his thirties or forties at that time. Physically, Isaac could have overpowered Abraham. Yet Isaac understood his father’s heart. “My father.” “Here I am, my son.” “Where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” Isaac had learned through his father’s life what true worship meant. He

surely understood Abraham's intention. Yet he allowed himself to be bound and placed upon the wood. Even as Abraham raised the knife, Isaac said nothing. He embodied the prophecy of Isaiah.

[Isaiah 53:7] He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

How could God entrust Abraham with such a profound prophetic picture of the cross of Christ? How could God expect Isaac to move according to His divine purpose?

Think about it. Many figures in Scripture have biblical "nicknames." "Drawn out of the water", that is Moses. "Walked with God", that is Enoch. "A righteous man in a corrupt generation", that is Noah. "A man after God's own heart", that is David. "Finished the race of faith to the end", that is Paul. What, then, was Abraham's nickname?

Probably most of us would think of the title "the father of faith." However, that is a nickname given by people who look at him from the outside. God gave Abraham a different title. It was "the friend of God." What kind of being is a friend? A friend is someone who shares the heart. The heart that even parents do not know, the heart that school teachers do not know, the heart that even a pastor does not know—that heart a friend knows. When you tell your heart to people, they often try to comfort you but end up hurting you, and they try to give you advice that never really touches your heart. But when you pour out your heart to a friend, what does a friend say? "Oh, I get you." There are children who sometimes run away from home. They do not tell their parents. Of course they do not tell their teachers. But they tell their friend. And then the friend goes with them.

Do you know why Abraham was called the friend of God? Because God was able to share with Abraham all the things concerning Jesus Christ that He had kept in His heart. What He

intended to accomplish through Jesus, His beloved and only Son, the event of offering Isaac as a burnt offering on Mount Moriah—God poured out all of these things to His friend Abraham. And because Abraham was God's friend, he participated in the very heart of God. God was able to speak to Abraham about everything that was in His heart. How was this possible? It was because Abraham's worship did not exist only on the top of Mount Moriah. Abraham's worship was continuing even when he spent the night at home, and it continued all along the way as he traveled toward Mount Moriah. That is the picture of a true worshiper

James adds a crucial word: unmoving faith is dead faith.

[James 2:17] Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

Notice carefully, James does not say faith does not exist. He says it is "dead." What is dead faith? It is confession without direction.

If faith is real, the trajectory of life must follow God. The Upper Room discourse we are studying in John's Gospel provides our direction. Jesus is the Way.

[John 14:6] Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Jesus did not present a doctrine; He presented a road. A road is not a place to stand—it is a path to walk. To believe in Jesus is to walk after Him.

Direction determines destination. Even a one-degree change in direction alters the final destination completely. In navigation, a one-degree shift may seem insignificant at first, but over long distance it leads to a completely different continent.

Faith is not a massive leap; it is a small adjustment in direction. A one-degree act of obedience today can reshape an entire life ten years from now.

The One who enables us to walk the Way is the Holy Spirit. The

Spirit is not merely emotional inspiration; He is our Guide. Romans 8 says, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God."

The Holy Spirit does not simply stir temporary feelings; He directs the course of life. Therefore, the life of a true believer is not driven by personal zeal, but by following His leading.

Deep Application ~ Where Are We Headed?

I say I believe in Jesus, but what determines my decisions? Do my relational choices align with His direction? Does the use of my finances align with the kingdom of God? Is the goal of my life worldly success, or the will of God? Faith is not confession, it is direction.

Conclusion ~ Alignment Always Produces Movement

Last week we spoke about alignment. Today we move to the next step. Aligned faith always produces movement. Abraham left. The disciples left their boats. Paul changed direction. So today we declare once again: "Living as a true believer does not begin with stronger conviction, but with walking in the direction the Spirit leads."

Prayer Points

- A. Lord, do not let my faith remain in thought alone.
- B. Help me respond to what I have heard and change direction.
- C. Make me sensitive to the Spirit's leading and obedient.
- D. May today's small obedience reshape the direction of my life.