

Text: Hebrews 11:13-22

Title: Walking by Faith, Not by Sight, Pt. II

### **3 characteristics**

#### **I. CONTROLLED BY THE DIVINE PERSPECTIVE 13-16**

##### **A. REGARDING THEIR FLEETING CITIZENSHIP 13**

Their Delayed Acquisition– Rev 14:13; Their Distant Affection– the heavenly reality seemed dim to them. Their Determined Acceptance– see vv. 9-10; not a hopeless resignation but a hopeful realization

##### **B. REQUIRING THEIR FORCEFUL CLARIFICATION 14-15**

The Object They Desired– a true homeland; convinced of the transitory, temporary nature of their life on earth; a diligent searching, a determined yearning with all the heart, see Heb 13:14; similar idea in 2 Pe 3:13. The Opportunity They Declined– return to idolatry, Josh 24:2, plaguing future generations, Gen 31:30; 35:2; steadfast rejection, renunciation

##### **C. REASSURING THEIR FUTURE COUNTRY 16**

Their Heavenly Home– faith fixed not in a horizontal but in a vertical direction; intense striving and deep aspiration, stretching out for, 1 Tim 3:1. Their Highest Honor– not ashamed to be called our God. God of Abraham, Gen 15:1; of Isaac, 26:24; of Jacob, 28:13; *cf.* Ex 3:6; Mt 22:32, is our God!!! Jesus also not ashamed... Heb 2:11. The Holy Spirit not ashamed ..., Rom 8:15-16. God has prepared this city – see Jn 14:2; Phi 3:20. A Holy Habitation, Rev 11:2; 21:2, 10; 22:19.

#### **II. CONFIDENT IN THE DIVINE POWER 17-19**

##### **A. HIS COURAGEOUS COMPLIANCE 17**

A Testing Compliance– to prove the genuineness of his faith; account in Gen 22:1-12. A Terrifying Compliance– God, who had given him these promises in 15:1-4; 17:15-19, now requires him to sacrifice his (only) son through the divine promises would be fulfilled. Abraham now about to plunge the knife into this son's heart.

##### **B. HIS CONFLICTING CIRCUMSTANCES 18**

Recall the conflict with Hagar and Ishmael, Gen 21:1-12, v. 12 in particular.

##### **C. HIS CONFIDENT CONSIDERATION 19**

A rational conclusion. Gen 22:5; Rom 4:17, 21 (17-21).

#### **III. COMMITTED TO THE DIVINE PROCESS 20-22**

In vv. 20-21, we have the process established by the Lord God for passing on the physical and spiritual blessing to the firstborn, Dt 21:15-17. The focus is on the spiritual which emphasizes God's election process as a controlling, determining principle in redemptive history. Verse 22 points out the process for returning to the Promised Land

##### **A. DETERMINATION IN THE FACE OF DECEPTION 20**

*Cf.* Gen 27:27-40. Full account in vv. 1-40. Not a case of the end justifying the means but one of the end swallowing up the wrongful means by grace and mercy while at the same time holding the perpetrator accountable

##### **B. DISCERNMENT IN THE FACE OF DISABILITY 21**

That is, infirmity of eyes, Gen 48:10. Entire account in vv. 8-20.

##### **C. DIRECTION IN THE FACE OF DEATH 22**

Joseph clung to God's promise in Gen 15:16; 28:15; 46:4; 48:21. Here is a clear understanding of God's promise for his people to which Joseph was committed even at the point of death.