

The Blessedness of Rest Series: 5

An Unwavering Confident Faith [part 1]

Hebrews 3.5-15

In verse 12 we are told to “**beware..lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief**” This is a warning from God – He warns us to be aware. Unbelief is evil, unbelief will rob us of everything.

In our study last week we saw how the people of God did not enter into the Promised Land because of their unbelief. This land was their promised rest. All that God had promised them, a land of blessing and prosperity, “a land flowing with milk and honey” was stolen from them because they did not believe. Unbelief cost them their rest and called calls that unbelieving heart evil. It required faith on their part in the promise of God to enter in: and likewise we enter the rest by faith.

We finished with these thoughts, that:

- Faith enters in to rest. If unbelief cost them their rest then the opposite must be true.
- When we trust God we can rest. Trusting God eliminates the pressure of having to be in control.
- When we have our confidence in God we can rest. In this study we are going to see that Abraham’s confident, unwavering trust in God led him to a place where he could rest in God, even through the darkest of times.

We cannot entertain unbelief – unbelief breeds mis-trust, bitterness, envy, jealousies, anxiety, worry and fear. None of these things will allow us to enter the rest.

Rest is being at peace, if you're not at peace then you're not at rest.

Faith is the launch-pad to enter the rest. We must believe that God is, we must trust His Word, but then what?

“For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end” (v14)

Confidence - confidence in what? Not ourselves but God and His Word. This confidence springs from our faith in His Word.

The same word (*hupostasis*) translated *confidence* in this verse, is also translated as *substance* in Hebrews 11.1.

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen”

Confidence is the substance or expectation of what we believe. The root word literally means 'to stand or set under, ie foundation' Our confidence causes us to stand under, endure anything. It gives us the assurance we need to stay the course.

Let us consider Abraham once again. He was a man of great faith and great confidence.

Romans 4.16-21

“and being [fully convinced](#) that what He had promised He was also able to perform” (v21) - he was totally confident (KJV *fully persuaded*).

Abraham received a promise from God – that he would be the father of many nations. That promise meant that he and Sarah had to have a child.

- v16. The promise is sure to those of faith – this wasn’t just for Abraham, this is for us all, those who will believe, trust and enter the rest.
- v17. Abraham got in line with God and started speaking the way God spoke. He called those things which did not exist as though they did. He started confessing that he was father of many nations (Abraham – *every time he spoke his own name he was confessing this promise*).
 - This is not positive thinking, positive mental attitude or mind over matter. Nor is this what some have labelled ‘*name it and claim it*’. This is agreeing with God’s word and confessing it by faith.
 - A few weeks ago we saw that seeds need planting. The seed is the word of God and needs to be spoken. We speak what God says, not what we feel or think. The seed will produce the intended result.
 - In the foreknowledge of God, what He has promised is already done, even if we can’t yet see the physical manifestation of it.
- v18. When everything was contrary to what he was believing – he still believed
- v19. He did not consider his aged physical body, nor Sarah’s age or her inability to conceive – Sarah’s womb was dead (barren)
- v20. He did not waver (doubt God’s promise) but rather was strengthened in faith by meditating (considering) on the promise – He looked at the promise and not the problem
 - Abraham did not waver (*stagger, oppose, dispute, contend, doubt or hesitate*) at God’s promise through unbelief but was confident in God.
 - James 1.6-8 “[But let him ask in faith, with no doubting \(wavering\), for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.](#)”
- v21. He was fully persuaded, totally convinced, absolutely certain that God would fulfill His word – that gave Him confidence.
 - Abraham and Sarah eventually received God’s promise – Isaac. It didn’t happen straightaway, they had to stand in faith and rest in that “[what \[God\] had promised He was also able to perform](#)”