



**Reading:** Hebrews chapter 11 verses 8-19

**Key Thought:** Proverbs 13 verse 22a: **A good person leaves an inheritance for their children's children.**

**Context:** The account of Abraham is more than a story – more than an historical record. It was written just as much for New Testament Christians, and for us, as it was for the Old Testament Jews. It was pre-Law; pre-Moses; pre-tabernacle or church; pre-Salvation; and pre- a personal infilling of the Holy Spirit. But, its relevance to us is of great importance. Abraham's name is mentioned 70 times in the New Testament because he was to us a model of faith and obedience. His legacy is noted in many New Testament writings, and still impacts us today.

**Content:**

This is what the New Testament tells us about the legacy of Abraham. Because of Abraham:

- **We are heirs of the covenant God made with Abraham.** (Read Genesis 22v18; Acts 3v25; Galatians 3v7-9) Through faith in Jesus, we become 'children' of Abraham and we can claim his promises to bless us and to bless others through us – "so that, those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith".
- **We are justified by faith.** (Read Romans 4v3) To be justified means that we are aligned with God's way of doing things – it is the way of faith, trust and obedience. Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness. We should never be self-righteous, but faith in Jesus Christ will make us righteous in God's eyes.
- **We can put our hope in God's Promise.** (Read Romans 4v18) Abraham's story shows us that where there is no hope, or hope has died, we CAN HAVE HOPE when God speaks his promise into our lives. God can always find a way where there seems to be no way.
- **We have a Biblical foundation for tithing.** (Read Hebrews 7v1-3) The Mosaic Law was not around in Abraham's day – but tithing to God is about showing Him our love, reverence, gratitude and appreciation. There is no command to tithe in the New Testament, it comes from the heart.
- **We can sacrifice our all to God and trust Him.** (Read Hebrews 11v17-19) These verses say it all. Abraham believed that God could raise Isaac from the dead. If we believe that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, then all things are possible. Nothing is too hard for God.
- **We can receive the Holy Spirit in our lives.** (Read Galatians 3v14) We can only receive the presence of the Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ, when we know that we are children of Abraham – children of faith.

**Challenges:**

Are we making a difference, as Christians? Are we touching the lives of others – leaving a legacy – will our descendants be blessed through us? When I look back over my life, I can think of many people who have given me words of encouragement and hope. Those words have kept me following Jesus, they have spurred me on to work for God in different ways. They have not only changed my life for the better, but my hope is that through me, they will change the lives of my children, my grandchildren, and my friends too.

**This should be the outcome for all who, through faith in Jesus Christ, are heirs to the Promises given to Abraham.**

**Communicate:**

Feel free to let us know if you have questions or comments about this study. Perhaps you have a testimony or word of encouragement that might help others. Or maybe you would like prayer as you begin a new thing for God in your life. We will gladly get back to you.