

NSD Notes

For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. (1 Cor. 9:19)
Volume 6, No. 04 April 25, 2010

Services

- Bible Study 10 a.m.
- Morning Service.....11 a.m.
- Evening Service.....6 p.m.
- Wednesday Meeting.....7 p.m.

News @ NSD

Members, please remain after the morning service for our Congregational meeting.

- **Janna Wells** – back problems.
- **Martha Holloway's** recurring back and heart ailment.
- **Robyn Hamilton's** sister, in hospice in New Orleans awaiting surgery after a car accident.
- **Dema's** sister-in-law – liver and bone cancer.
- **Scott Shaw's** dad, Tommy – battling liver cancer.
- **Jeanne Lynne** – recovering from surgeries.

TONIGHT IS SINGING NIGHT



Sunday Morning Class
Psalms

Wednesday Night Class
Character Studies: Nehemiah

FAITH THAT DOES NOT KNOW WHERE IT IS GOING

There are only two ways to live. We can base our decisions on what we see around us, trusting in ourselves to interpret and react correctly. We can look to our empirical senses to tell us what is best for us. The other way, far less common, is to base our decisions by trusting in what God has said, and to look to the things that we cannot see. This is the essence of the Christian's lifestyle. We have not seen God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, the apostles, heaven or hell, or even an original manuscript of the Bible. Yet we live in conviction of these things by faith. *"We walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Cor. 5:7).*

Abraham, A True Man of Faith. Perhaps no one, save Christ, embodies the full meaning of faith more than the patriarch Abraham. The Bible quickly identifies Abraham, then called Abram, as a man of faith. **Genesis 15:6 – 6** *"And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness"*. Throughout the history of Israel, Abraham is viewed as the "father of the faithful." He is central to the story of God's people.

Isaiah calls Abraham, "the rock" from which Israel was hewn, and "the quarry" from which they were dug (**Isaiah 51:1**). It was the covenant that God made with Abraham that anticipated and promised the coming of Christ (the seed through which the world would be blessed – **Gal. 3:16**). Christians today are described in the N.T. as the spiritual heirs of the promise made to Abraham.

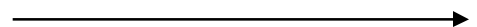
The Faith of Abraham as a type. Both Paul and James reference the faith of Abraham as typical of the faith God has always desired and expected of His people. His faith was comprehensive, and thus was accounted to him for righteousness.

To those who wanted to find their salvation in the law of Moses, and return to that law as a means of justification, Paul references Abraham as an example of justification by faith, not perfect law keeping: **Rom 4:16** – *"Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all ..."* All men, like Abraham are justified by trusting in God.

To those who would define faith as just believing apart from obedience, James references Abraham's faith as the classic example of faith that obeys God: **James 2:19-22** *"You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe — and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?"*

Abraham was reared in the city of Ur (**Genesis 11:27-31**), in the land of the Chaldeans. The city of Ur was located in Mesopotamia at the intersection of the Tigris and Euphrates River. It was dedicated to Nannar, the moon god. Nannar's temple was in the center of the city, along with colossal Ziggurat that was dedicated to her honor.

Nannar was considered the king and the landlord of the people In the book *Archaeology*



North San Diego church of Christ

7090 Miramar Road #102
San Diego, CA 92121

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 721513
San Diego, CA 92172

Phone: 858-578-0734

<http://www.nsdca.com>

All are welcome to our worship
and study meetings!

... singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs
with thankfulness in your hearts to God. **Col 3:16**

Behold, bless the LORD
All servants of the LORD
Who serve by night
In the house of the LORD
Lift up your hands to the sanctuary
And bless the LORD
May the LORD bless you from Zion
He who made heaven and earth

Psalm 134

We look at things we cannot see
Eternal things above
Where Christ our Savior ever lives
And intercedes in love

Our love is on the things above
And not on things below
When Christ who is our life appears
His glory we shall know

We walk by faith and not by sight
Our hearts are filled with love
In hope we wait for Christ's return
To take us home above

R. J. Stevens

[Faith That Does Not Know...]

and the Old Testament by Unger, it is said that the moon god "owned their farms, their shops and their wealth."

The scriptures tell us in **Joshua 24:2** that Abraham's father, Terah, "served other gods." It is unusual to find children that do not follow their parents in the course of their religion. Although Abraham was born in a city of idolaters and was raised by an idolater, he chose to serve Jehovah.

According to Stephen, God called Abraham to leave his family while he was still living in Ur. **Acts 7:2-4** – "And he said, Brethren and fathers, listen: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran, and said to him, 'Get out of your country and from your relatives, and come to a land that I will show you.' Then he came out of the land of the Chaldeans and dwelt in Haran. And from there, when his father was dead, He moved him to this land in which you now dwell." We might be able to reason why God did not want Abraham to stay in Ur. God was calling him away from the wickedness that surrounded him and his family. But God's sanctifying purposes are deeper than just Abraham's environment. This call was a test of faith.

After the death of his father, God called Abraham again. **Genesis 12:1** – "Now the Lord had said to Abram: 'Get out of your country, from your family And from your father's house, to a land that I will show you'."

How did Abraham respond? **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." This describes a faith that obeys God even when it does not know where it is going. Abraham was walking by faith, not by sight. John MacArthur calls Abraham the "most strategic example of faith". The writer of Hebrews cannot teach us about faith without a close look at Abraham. He walked by faith, was justified by faith, and died in faith. What can we learn from **Hebrews 11** about the faith of Abraham?

"By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out... " (**Heb. 11:8**) How do we know that Abraham believed God? That is an easy question. He obeyed. Obedience is a recurring concept in **Hebrews 11**, and an inescapable characteristic of true faith.

In the Greek language, "he was called" is a present participle, and thus could be translated, "as he was called." When did Abraham obey? **As soon as he was called.** He was packing to go at the first words of God. There was no reluctance or hesitation. There was no arguing or rationalizing.

This type of implicit obedience does not appear out of nowhere. Abraham had absolute confidence in God's words. Implicit and complete obedience is born out of real faith. Abraham did not just agree with God; he trusted God. We will see how this is indicated later. **(continued next week)**

Excerpted from www.southsidechurchofchrist.com, April 24, 2010

ELDERS: Dan Austin, Robyn E. Hamilton

DEACON: Matt Wells

MINISTER: Dan Austin