The Foundations of Faith

Hebrews 11:8-12

1. We must live with faith that looks forward (vv. 8)

*Genesis 12:1-3: “ 1 Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you.  2  And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.  3  I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”*

2. We must live with faith that reminds us that we are living as foreigners (vv. 9-10)

*Hebrews 13:7-14: “ 7  Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.  8  Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.  9  Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them.  10  We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat.  11  For the bodies of those animals*

*whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp.  12  So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood.  13  Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured.  14  For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.”*

3. We must live with faith that is focused (vv. 11)

*Genesis 15:1-11, 17-21: After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” 2  But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”  3  And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.”  4  And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.”  5  And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”  6  And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness. 7  And he said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess.”  8  But he said, “O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?”  9  He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.”  10  And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half.  11  And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.*

*17  When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.  18  On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, 19  the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites,  20  the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim,  21  the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites.”*