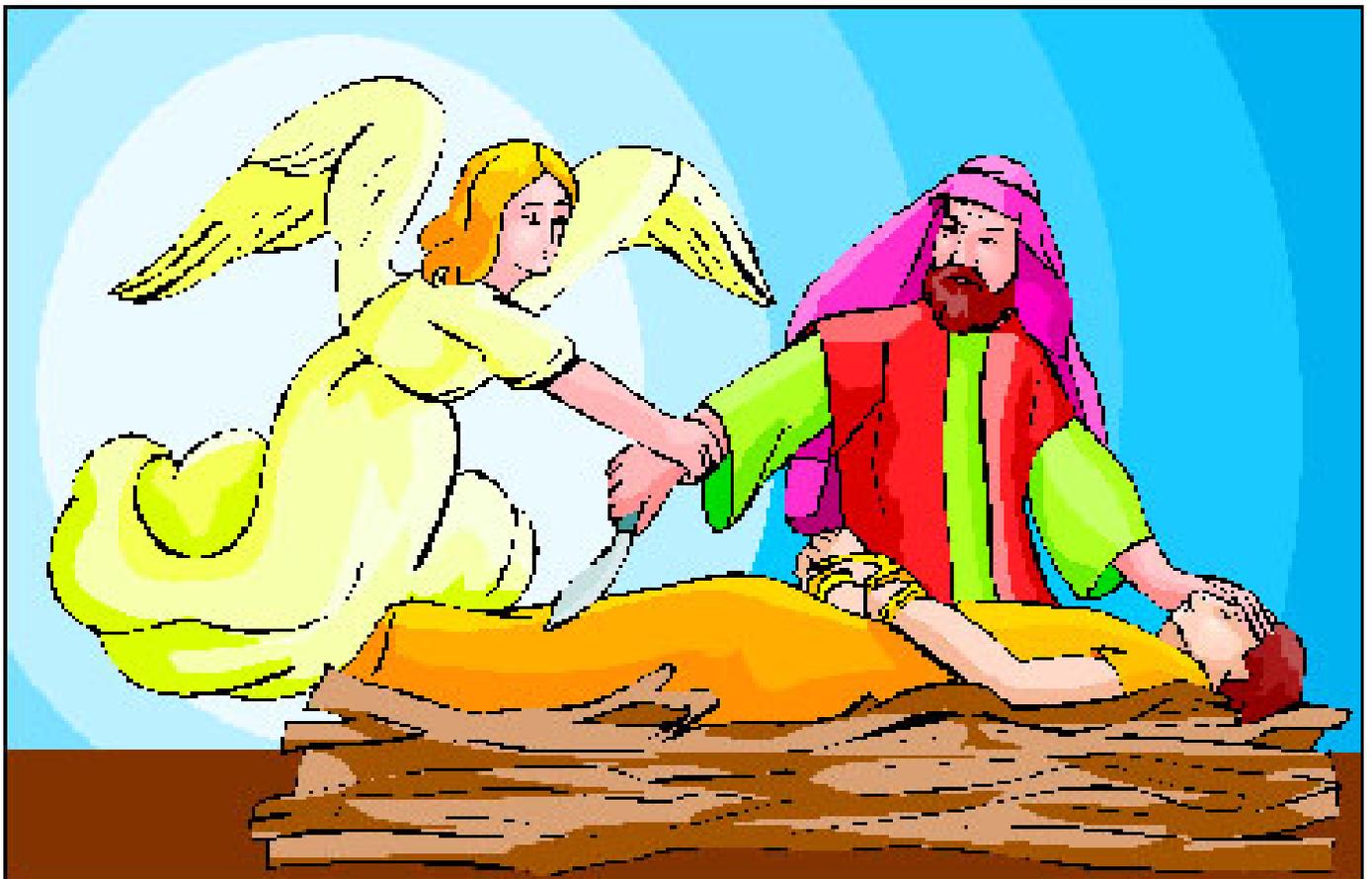


The Faith of Abraham and the Christian

(The Faith of Abraham, is it yours?)



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Preface

In this booklet the life of Abraham is examined. He is the example and measurement of faith for all who claim to believe God (Romans chapter 4).

Abraham is unique among men because God made Himself known to Abraham. He called him to come out from his culture, religion, family, friends and the life to which he was accustomed. He told Abraham what He was going to do for him. Abraham complied with what God told him and became the friend of God. Abraham believed God, which put him into the place of receiving the eternal blessing of God.

God has called all men to believe in the revelation and physical manifestation of His Son. Responding to the calling of God as Abraham did, is the place of entering into God's blessing today. The Holy Spirit and Scripture is the pathway for those who would follow true faith as Abraham did. For all who profess faith in God, Abraham's life shows what true faith in God looks like.

1. What was the faith of Abraham?

“And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him” (Genesis 5:24).

- Like Enoch, Abraham, upon hearing the voice of the Lord walked with Him all the days of his life (Genesis 26:5).
- God chose Abraham out of all men in the world, to make known His purpose and plan (Genesis 12:1).
- God’s purpose and plan for Abraham, was that divine blessing should be upon him in completeness (Genesis 12:2-3).
- Abraham’s faith was based on God’s revelation to him (Genesis 12:4).
- Abraham’s faith was based on God’s word (Genesis 15:1-5).
- God made Abraham totally righteous (God imputed to Abraham righteousness) because he believed what He told him (Genesis 15:6).
- As with every one of every age who believes God, their faith was based on a blood sacrifice (Genesis 12:7-8; 15:9-10, 17; 22:1-4).

- Abraham in faith looked for the eternal city of God (Hebrews 11:10).
- Abraham by faith left his country and all that was there (Genesis 12:4).
- Abraham by faith, following the promise of God, lived in tents in a foreign country (Hebrews 11:9).
- Abraham's faith made him a stranger and a pilgrim on the earth (Hebrews 11:16).
- Abraham in faith sought after a heavenly country (Hebrews 11:6).
- Abraham's faith allowed God to show him his future blessing (Genesis 18:17).
- Abraham's faith made him a prophet of God (Genesis 20:7).
- Abraham's faith made him a priest of God (Genesis 17:7; 22:13).
- Abraham's faith brought him to be an intercessor for man to God (Genesis 18:22-23).
- Because Abraham in faith obeyed God, He promised him that the Messiah would come through his descendents (Genesis 22:18).
- Abraham in faith to God's word, took his son Issac and put him on the altar for a sacrifice of worship unto God (Genesis 22:1-18).

- Because Abraham humbled himself to the word of the Lord, God changed his name from Abram to Abraham (Genesis 17:1-3, 5).
- Abraham's faith, based on truth, brought him into being a friend of God (2 Chronicles 20:7; Isaiah 41:8; James 2:23).
- Abraham in faith directed his children and household in the same truths of God's word that he followed (Genesis 18:19).
- By faith to God's word, Abraham directed his servant to find only a godly wife for Issac, his son (Genesis 24:2-4, 7).
- Abraham, in response to the promise of God, directed his servant to keep his son in Canaan, the land of promise (Genesis 24:6).
- Abraham, in obedience to God's word, left an eternal inheritance to Issac (Hebrews 11:9).
- Abraham's obedience to what God told him, allowed God to show him his future blessing (Genesis 18:17-18; 22:15-18).
- God is not ashamed to be called Abraham's God, because he believed Him (Hebrews 11:16).

2. Abraham's faith was based on what God told him

“He (Abraham) did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform” (Romans 4:20-21).

- Upon Abraham's first contact with God, his life took a new direction based on what God told him (Genesis 2:4).
- Abraham's response to what God told him influenced Lot, his nephew, to faith as well (Genesis 12:4-5; 2 Peter 2:7).
- Abraham became a servant of God by faith in what He told him (Genesis 18:3).
- When God told Abraham to sacrifice his son, he willingly obeyed knowing that God could raise him from the among the dead (Hebrews 11:17-19).
- Abraham, because of what God told him, directed his whole household according to the word of God (Genesis 18:19).
- Abraham obeyed the word of the Lord and circumcised all the males in his household (Genesis 17:10, 22-27).

- Abraham's knowledge of God gave him the discernment to recognize Melchizedek as a priest of the most high God (Genesis 14:18-20).
- Abraham's friendship with God would not allow him to be in oneness with unbelievers, or to receive any of the spoils taken in battle from the 4 kings (Genesis 15:1-21; 17:3; 18:22-23).

3. Abraham's faith and the release of God's blessing on him

“Now Abraham was old, well advanced in age; and the Lord had blessed Abraham in all things” (Genesis 24:1).

- God predetermined to bless Abraham (Genesis 12:2).
- God predetermined to make Abraham a great nation (Genesis 12:2).
- God predetermined to make Abraham a blessing to all nations (Genesis 12:2-3).
- God would bless those who blessed Abraham, and curse those who cursed Abraham (Genesis 12:3, 17).
- God would give the land of Canaan to Abraham and his descendants (Genesis 12:7; 13:14-17).
- God was Abraham's shield and great reward (Genesis 15:1).

- God would bless Abraham's descendents to make them as numerous as the stars of heaven, and as the sand which is on the seashore (Genesis 15:5; 22:17).
- God gave Abraham a vision of the prophetic future (Genesis 15:12-17).
- God made a covenant with Abraham (Genesis 17:3).
- God made Abraham the father of many nations (17:5).
- God would bring kings out of Abraham's descendents (Genesis 17:5).
- God's covenant to Abraham would extend to his descendents (Genesis 17:7).
- God would give the land of Canaan to Abraham's descendents forever (Genesis 17:8).
- God would be the God of Abraham's descendents (Genesis 17:8).
- God gave circumcision to Abraham as a sign of His covenant (blessing) to him (Genesis 17:9-14).
- By God's divine power Sarah (Abraham's wife who was over 90 years of age), would give birth to Abraham's son of promise (Genesis 17:17; 21:1-2).
- God overrides Abraham's human judgment with divine design (Genesis 17:18-19).
- God overrides Abraham's human action with divine blessing (Genesis 17:20).

- God brings Abraham into His divine counsel for the future (Genesis 18:17-18).
- God would make Abraham a divine blessing to all nations (Genesis 18:18).
- Abraham, as a priest of God, would allow him to be an intercessor for man to God (Genesis 18:20-33; 20:17-18).
- God protected Abraham from the evil acts of men (Genesis 20:1-7).
- God's blessing on Abraham is passed on to his descendants, because Abraham obeyed God (Genesis 26:5, 24; 28:4).
- God's blessing on Abraham gave him grace to give to men even when they violated him (Genesis 21:25-32).
- God's blessing provided Abraham with a sacrifice (Genesis 22:6-8, 12-14).
- God, by divine power carried out Abraham's instructions to his servant (Genesis 24:3-7).
- God promised Abraham that the Messiah would come out of his loins through Sarah (Genesis 17:16; 22:18).
- Abraham leaves the body and enters into God's eternal rest (Genesis 24:8).

- God has made Abraham's name great to all the earth and even greater to those who honor God's word (Genesis 12:2).

4. God's blessings on Abraham are seen and acknowledged by Man

“So he said, I am Abraham's servant. The Lord has blessed my master greatly, and he has become great; and He has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female servants, and camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and to him he has given all that he has (Genesis 24:34-36).

- Melchizedek, king of Salem (Jerusalem), brought out bread and wine to Abraham and blessed him (Genesis 14:17-20).
- Abimelech, king of Gerar, acknowledged God's blessing on Abraham (Genesis 20:14-16).
- Abimelech, and Phichol who was commander of his army, spoke to Abraham saying, “God is with you in all that you do” (Genesis 21:22).
- The sons of Heth called Abraham a mighty prince of God (Genesis 23:5-6).

- The sons of Heth offered Abraham the best burial plot for Sarah (Genesis 23:6).
- Abraham's servant acknowledges God's blessing on Abraham (Genesis 24:27, 34-35).
- Sarah acknowledged God's blessing on Abraham and obeyed him (1 Peter 3:6).
- Sarah called Abraham Lord (1 Peter 3:6).
- God's blessing on Abraham was passed on to his direct descendents (Genesis 28:3-4).

5. Did God count Abraham's failure after the flesh against him?

“Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity” (Psalms 32:1-2).

- God's instructions to Abraham were to go to Canaan. He went first to Haran and dwelt there, rather than going on to Canaan. (Genesis 11:31; 12:1).
- God had promised the land of Canaan to Abraham. However, because of a famine in the land, he went to Egypt for help. (Egypt is a type, which represents the unbelieving world, Acts 7:39; 11:24-26; Jude 5).

- Abraham told Sarah his wife, to tell all in Egypt she was his sister. This was true, (Sarah was a half sister) but also a deception (Genesis 12:11-13).
- Abraham's deception while in Egypt allowed Pharaoh to take Sarah to be his future wife. God put a plague on Pharaoh's house for taking Sarah (Genesis 12:17).
- Abraham's deception was discovered by Pharaoh (Genesis 12:18-20).
- Abraham listened to and followed Sarah's directions and attempted to make the promise of God come to fulfillment through fleshly means, through Hagar (Genesis 16:1-3).
- Abraham told Abimelech Sarah was his sister (Genesis 20:2).
- Abimelech takes Sarah to be his future wife and is rebuked and threatened of God because of Abraham's deception (Genesis 20:3-7).
- Abimelech's household was cursed because of Abraham's deception (Genesis 20:17-18).

Nowhere does God remember Abraham's faults and failings. Only Abraham's faith is recorded in the New Testament as God's full and complete testimony of Abraham's life (Hebrews 11:8-9).

6. Was there a cost to Abraham for him to believe God?

“...whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple” (Luke 14:33).

- Abraham was called of God to go out of his country to live in another country (Genesis 12:1).
- Abraham was called of God to leave his father’s house (Genesis 12:1).
- Abraham was called of God to leave family and friends alike (Genesis 12:1).
- Abraham gave up his own life to believe God, no more to live in an unrighteous state (Genesis 15:6).
- Abraham gave up the life of his son to obey God (Genesis 22:1-12).
- Abraham was subservient and humbled at the word of God (Genesis 17:3).

7. Is a Christian to believe God as Abraham did?

“Then Peter opened his mouth and said: In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him” (Acts 10:34-35).

- Anyone who believes God according to His word will be in the same foundation of faith as Abraham (Acts 10:35).
- To believe God as Abraham did is the Christians calling (Romans 4:16).
- Gentiles were included in the promise of God (Romans 14:17).
- Like Abraham, every believer is chosen of God (Ephesians 1:4-5, 11; 1 Peter 1:2).
- Like Abraham, God's calling upon the Christian is purely by the grace of God (Romans 4:16).
- As with Abraham, every believer is chosen for blessing (Ephesians 1:3).
- The Christian is instructed not to waver at God's word or His promises (Romans 4:20-21).
- God will justify the Christian who believes Him as Abraham believed. Therefore, have peace with God (Romans 5:1).
- As with Abraham, the believer is called out of the world to be in fellowship with God (1 Corinthians 1: 9; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17).
- Abraham, convinced of God's promises to him, through his faith, received Gods imputed righteousness

(Romans 4:21-23). The righteousness of God is imputed to the Christian through his faith (Romans 4:24; 2 Corinthians 5:21).

- Abraham saw Christ's first coming and rejoiced in it (John 8:56). So should the Christian rejoice in hope, looking for the trump of God to take His own, the dead and the living, unto Himself (1 Corinthians 15:51-53; Titus 2:13).
- Abraham's faith was seen as real by men because of his action to implement truth (James 2:21). So it is with the Christian who in faith points his feet to follow truth (James 2:18).
- Abraham lived in obedience to God's word (Hebrews 11:8). So is the Christian to live in obedience to God's truth, His word (2 Corinthians 10:5).
- Jesus used Abraham as an example of what true faith will produce (John 8:39).

8. What will be the outcome today of a person believing God as Abraham did?

“Therefore it was accounted to him (Abraham) for righteousness. Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification” (Romans 4:22-25).

- A person believing God according to His word, will be walking in the same life of faith as Abraham (John 8:39).
- Anyone believing as Abraham believed, will have no intermediaries (believing God through a church, church founder, pastor, hierarchy, etc.) between himself and God.
- A person believing as Abraham did will accept every word of God (Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4).
- Abraham did not twist, argue against, or change the word of God to fit his own convenience. Neither will a person who follows God as Abraham did.
- Abraham looked beyond the temporal to the eternal. The Christian, believing God as Abraham did, will do the same (Colossians 3:1-2).

- Abraham did not question God’s word but acted in obedience to it. The Christian following in the same faith as Abraham will do as he did (Hebrews 11:8).
- Abraham walked in fellowship with the counsel of God. A Christian who reveres God’s word will enter into the same fellowship of walking with God (John 15:14; 1 Corinthians 1:9).
- Abraham only entered into fellowship with those who believed God according to truth (Genesis 14:18-20). A Christian following Christ will follow only the true fellowship, “the pillar and ground of truth” = the true Church (1 Timothy 3:15).
- Abraham lived after the eternal truth of God; he had much grace toward those who offended him in the temporal (Genesis 20:17; 21:22-25). A Christian living after the eternal kingdom of God will also have much grace toward those who offend (1 Peter 2:19-23).
- Abraham took his direction of life from what God told him. A person following Christ will do the same (John 10-27).
- Abraham’s life was a reflection of the God he believed and followed. The Christian who follows truth will reflect Christ (2 Corinthians 2:15; 3:2; 1 John 4:17).

9. Dividing between truth and error to walk in the Spirit

What is NOT walking in the Spirit

Receiving error to walk after the flesh is not of faith.
“...Abraham did not do this” (John 8:40).

- A person walking in the Spirit will not be led to go beyond what is written (1 Corinthians 4:6), twist (2 Peter 3:16) or change the meaning of Scripture (2 John 10). He will not make Scripture divisive (1 Timothy 6:3-5), or reject the word of God as culture or tradition (Mark 7:5-9).
- A person walking in the Spirit will not follow after men (or women), whether they are clergy (Matthew 23:8), religious leaders (3 John 9-10), Charismatic figures (Acts 13:6-8), or men with religious titles (2 Corinthians 11:12-13). The Holy Spirit will not lead them to join with the divisions of sectarianism (denominationalism or independent religious gatherings) (1 Corinthians 1:10-14; 3:1-4), nor pay someone to tell them the gospel or the truths of Christ (such as renowned leaders, as men think), and does not lead anyone to charge listeners for making the gospel known (Micah 3:11; 2 Corinthians 2:17).

- A person walking in the Spirit does not follow statements of faith (our church believes this or that), creeds, responsive reading, liturgy, what our church founder told us to believe (whether true or false) or any other man led religious ideas (Jeremiah 17:5).
- A person walking after the Spirit will not be led into a doctrine of works (Romans 4:5; Galatians 3:3-5, 14).
- A person walking after the Spirit will not be fulfilling carnal or fleshly desires (Galatians 5:16).
- A person walking after the Spirit does not follow and is not subject to the Law of Moses (all 613 commandments), or church laws, by-laws of religious organizations, incorporation laws of churches, or church edicts. These laws, traditions and worldly principles are for man in the flesh and have no part in a believer's life of faith (Colossians 2:8, 14-19).
- A person living in the freedom of the Spirit will reject the teachings and the influence of religious leaders (who appeal to the flesh). These leaders make small the apostles doctrine and appease the flesh with psychology and religious words; some even deny the Lord who bought them (2 Peter 1-3).
- The person who follows after the Spirit will only have an ear for the Chief Shepherd's voice. All other

voices will be weighed against His voice (John 10:27, 5). The person not doing this will fall prey to a religious organization of some kind or depart from the faith altogether.

- A Spirit led believer does not reject what God has told him (in Scripture or by the Spirit) and then pursue a church position, his own ideas or ministry. Anyone rejecting the revelation of the Spirit through Scripture and pursuing a man or woman in some teaching or religious position, will have put themselves on an elevated position above the Holy Spirit (Romans 2:16; 1 Corinthians 4:7-8; Galatians 1:8-9).
- Walking in the Spirit is what every Christian has been called to follow. It is not a mystic or cosmic force which is hard to understand, or something out of reach for the heart of one who desires Christ alone.

10. How does a person walk in the Spirit?

(What does it mean to walk in the Spirit?)

“If you were Abraham’s children, you would do the works of Abraham” (John 8:39).

“He who is of God hears God’s words... (John 8:47).

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God” (Romans 8:14).

- For a person to walk in the Spirit, he must be indwelt by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:13; Colossians 1:27).
- If a person is not indwelt by Christ (the Holy Spirit), that person does not belong to Christ and cannot walk in the Spirit (Romans 8:9).
- The evidence of a person having the Spirit is whether he hears and receives the revelation of God's word (1 John 4:6).
- The church (of which all believers are part) is being built by the Spirit through revelation, as taught by the prophets and apostles (Ephesians 2:20-22; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 John 4:6).
- Receiving or discounting the apostles teaching (doctrine of Christ, apostles doctrine) is the determining point as to whether a Christian is walking in the Spirit or not. "Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son" (2 John 9).
- A person living and walking in the Spirit receives every word of God. Walking in the flesh (including religious flesh) is achieved through following error (James 5:20; 2 Peter 2:18). Walking in the Spirit is achieved through following truth (1 John 4:6).

There are no small or unimportant words of God as some teach. A person cannot walk in the Spirit and put away any Scripture he finds uncomfortable. Jesus said, “Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God” (Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4). “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16).

- The evidence of a person walking in the Spirit is shown in their love of Christ. This walk in the Spirit is received through keeping His commandments = His words in faith (commandments here are not the Law of Moses, but the words of Jesus and the apostles) (1 John 5:3).
- The person who believes God according to His revealed word (Christ) is doing the will and work of God (John 6:28-29).
- A person walking in the Spirit is in a continuous revelation of Christ through the Spirit (Ephesians 1:18; 4:15).
- A person walking in the Spirit is in continuous spiritual growth (1 Peter 1:23; 2 Peter 1:3-8; 3:18).

- A person led by the Spirit will receive and follow Scripture alone as God's unbroken measurement of truth (John 10:35; 2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- A person walking after the Spirit, will not be led astray to seek after man-created hierarchical religious positions (Matthew 23:11).

There is only one divine life that God has created for men and He imputes into their natural spirit, a life which is in "the kingdom of the Son of His love" (Colossians 1:13). This is the life of faith that Abraham lived and walked in, that which God created.

For the Christian who walks in obedience to the Spirit we are told, "For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13).

11. What profit is there to walk after the Spirit?

"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit" (Romans 8:1).

- The believer, who walks after the Spirit, walks in freedom from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:2).

- Every Christian possesses the Holy Spirit, but only those who walk (abide) in the Spirit, experience freedom of the Spirit (John 8:32-36).
- The righteousness of the law is fulfilled in the person who walks after the Spirit (Romans 8:4).
- To the person who walks after the Spirit, the Spirit witnesses to his spirit, that he is a child of God (Romans 8:16).
- The person who walks after the Spirit, lives in the peace of God (Romans 14:17).
- The person who walks after the Spirit, lives in the joy of God (Romans 14:17).
- A person who walks after the Spirit, is shown by the Spirit, the deep things of God (1 Corinthians 2:10).
- The one who walks in the Spirit will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh (Galatians 5:16).
- The person who walks after the Spirit will experience the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).
- The person who sows to the Spirit, will reap everlasting life (Galatians 6:18).
- The person who walks in the Spirit is able to walk in the unity of the Spirit (Ephesians 4:3).

- The person who walks in the Spirit, is able to use the sword of the Spirit (the word of God) rightfully (Ephesians 6:17).
- The person, who walks in the Spirit, has the love of God working through him (Colossians 1:8).
- The Spirit will not be quenched, in or by the person who walks after the Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19).
- Prophecies of the Spirit will not be despised by the person who walks after the Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:20).
- The person who walks after the Spirit, will possess discernment of spirits (1 John 4:1).
- The person, who walks after the Spirit, is able to hear the word of the Spirit (Matthew 17:5; Revelation 2:7, 11, 29; 3:6, 13, 22).
- The person who walks after the Spirit knows the things given to him of God (1 Corinthians 2:12).
- A person who walks after the Spirit is able to discern the Lord's body. He is able to know what is of Christ and what is not of Christ (1 Corinthians 11:29).
- A person who walks in the Spirit is able to spiritually articulate the Scripture according to the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:13, 16; Hebrews 4:12).

Final

This life is the abundant life, which Jesus came into this world to give to all people, who would walk in the faith of Abraham. The purpose of God in giving His Holy Spirit is that all who walk in faith to revealed truth, would experience the blessings of Abraham. Enoch walked with God and was caught away unto the Lord without experiencing death. The believer has the promise of God that he is to be caught up at the last trumpet to be forever with the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:51-53). The Spirit will lead any believer to live such a life, if they resist not the Spirit's truth and leading.

D. Neely
2-15-07

“Now the just shall live by faith; but if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him” (Hebrews 11:38).

For the person who walks in the Spirit: “For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us” (2 Corinthians 1:20).

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