

Hebrews: The Complete Work of Christ  
Learning to Live by Faith  
Hebrews 11:8-22

In the decision-making world that we have created for ourselves, we are wise to gather as much information as possible. We are rightly taught to make informed decisions whenever possible. We analyze and over-analyze. We list the pros and cons of every possible outcome to every possible decision. These things aren't bad. But sometimes analysis can lead to paralysis. When we reach a point where we just can't decide, we must try to think in terms of faith.

1. Faith is a process of patiently trusting and waiting.
2. Faith is a process of patiently living in the tension.
3. Faith is a process of patiently thinking forward.

The most amazing display of faith and obedience is seen in Abraham who trusted God to deliver Isaac, perceiving that doing so would be the greatest display of God's glory. That's the story of the gospel. God has determined to save sinners and has done so in a way that brings Him the greatest glory possible. God, who loves His Son to an even greater degree than Abraham loved Isaac, sent His Son to die for us. God's word is true, and His promises always come to pass, even when we can't envision how He will do what He has promised. Nevertheless, we are called to obey Him and follow Him—by faith.

For further consideration:

Take some time to evaluate your faith. Is it just a quick fix mechanism for the problems generated by sinful choices? Is it just a get rich scheme that you manipulate in order to live the good life? Is it something just lying dormant because the life you have created is good enough? Or is it something that lets you see beyond the immediacy of our comforts to a place that has been prepared by God—a place that makes the pleasures of this life, the freedoms of this country, the American Dream of our economy seem insignificant and mediocre by comparison?