



The Anchor in Assurance

Hebrews 11:8-19 • August 9th, 2026

BIG IDEA

Assurance of faith doesn't come from examining the strength of your own faith, it comes from fixing your eyes on the God who made the promise. Real faith proves itself in obedient action, but it's anchored not in that action, but in the trustworthiness of the Promise Giver, ultimately secured at the cross.

OUTLINE

1. True Faith Is Proven in Action (v8-10)
2. The Action Is Anchored in a Promise (v11-16)
3. The Promise Is Accomplished at a Price (v17-19)

CALL TO RESPOND

1. Stop looking inward for assurance. Identify where you've been using the strength (or weakness) of your own faith as the measure of whether you belong to God, and redirect your gaze to Him instead.
2. Take one step of obedience this week, even without full clarity on where it leads, following Abraham's pattern of moving from your will to God's, in something specific and concrete.
3. Bring your doubt directly to Christ rather than trying to resolve it privately first. Pray Mark 9:24 ("I believe; help my unbelief") as an honest, unfinished prayer.
4. Return to the cross as your anchor when faith feels weak — rehearse what was accomplished there (Romans 8:32) as the settled proof that God keeps His promises regardless of your performance.

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. When you think about "assurance," do you tend to look at your own life and effort, or at God's character and promises? Which one comes more naturally to you?
2. Abraham obeyed "not knowing where he was going." Where in your life right now does following God feel like that?
3. What are some characteristics of "show car faith" compared to simple faith that "hits the road"?

DIRECT APPLICATION

1. Read Hebrews 11:11-16 together. Sarah's faith wavered (she laughed at the promise in Genesis 18), yet she "received" what was promised. What does this tell us about the relationship between the strength of our faith and the reliability of God's promise?
2. Abraham was asked to offer Isaac, the very person the promise depended on, before he saw how God would resolve it. What's a situation where you've felt (or feel now) a real gap between your circumstances and God's promises? How does the cross speak into that gap?
3. The sermon says you can't resolve your doubt before coming to Christ, you have to bring it to Him. What would it look like, practically, for someone in this group to do that this week rather than waiting until they "feel ready"?