

(:11-12) Sarah is not usually considered a hero of faith ([Genesis 18:1-15](#))

- Here in Hebrews the Spirit of God speaks through Paul (writer) to clarify what is left ambiguous, much as He did concerning Abel in :4 (i.e. faith made his offering acceptable)
- According to :11 Sarah's faith was as instrumental as Abraham's (:11)
 - re. difference in NIV, (cf. pronouns - Names) NASB/ESV = most literal
 - In Gen. 18 Sarah laughed at God. In Gen. 21 she laughs with God. [Genesis 21:1-8](#)
- (:12) Therefore = point of :8-11. God is faithful to those who trust Him.
 - Have you ever trusted God to the point of stepping out in faith?
 - Too often our faith is one sided. re. What God can do for us. (help in trouble, sickness, etc)
 - But what about not only asking in faith, but responding in faith. (What can I do for You?...)
 - It wasn't Abraham's obedience that impressed God. It was the basis for his obedience (faith).

(:13a-c) These all died...

- None of the heroes of faith mentioned in this chapter saw the fulfillment of what they believed.
 - And even though they had their ups & downs, they never let go / went back / stopped believing.
- Our tendency is to believe God when He promises sunshine & roses, but question Him when life hits the fan.
 - But faith is the assurance that what God has promised will happen.
 - It's all the evidence we need that what we can't see now, we will see then.
- That's how people of faith endure every calamity & tragedy.
 - English preacher, family on Titanic, note during message - they've reached their destination.

(:13d-16) A better country...

- (:14) "...such things..." = "confessed" (:13)
 - We leave our old lives behind 'cuz we're seeking something better.
 - Psalm 39:12, 119:19
 - (1 Peter 1:17) *And remember that the heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favorites when he judges. He will judge or reward you according to what you do. So you must live in reverent fear of him during your time as foreigners here on earth.*
 - (1 Peter 2:11) *Dear brothers and sisters, you are foreigners and aliens here. So I warn you to keep away from evil desires because they fight against your very souls.*
 - Degarmo & Key: "My closest friends are aliens & strangers, travelers here, living with danger"
- (:15) They could have gone back - but their faith didn't let them.
- (:16) God is faithful to those who trust Him.