

**THE SHIELD OF FAITH: PART III**  
**EPHESIANS 6:10-20**  
**JULY 19, 2009**

*Questions for Study & Reflection*

1. Read Heb 11:1 and think about the nature of faith in light of these two statements: "Faith is trust in the faithfulness of God, and the faithfulness of God is a shield for all who believe." "You can be sure of what you hope for when you hope in what is sure."
2. Read Heb 11:8-19 and ask the Lord to give you insight into the life of Abraham. Can you identify the four things for which his and Sarah's faith was commended? Of all the things that happened in their lives, why do you think the author of Hebrews highlighted these particular things?
3. Read Gen 11:27-31 and think about the early part of Abraham's life. What do you think God was teaching him in this time and how did God utilize this later in his life? What do you learn about the faithfulness of God in guiding the entirety of a person's life?
4. It's very important to notice that Abraham acted in faith on the basis of particular words he received from God. He did not concoct a "word from the Lord" and then act upon it, rather he heard a word from the Lord and then acted in obedience to it. Do you see how faith rises from the words of God? Do you see how the faithfulness of God is most often expressed through his own fidelity to his words?
5. Do you see why the commendation of Abraham's faith in Heb 11:9-10 is so significant? Have you ever experienced the pain of waiting and waiting and waiting on the Lord? Have you also seen that, despite the pain, God is yet faithful and even used the pain to grow your faith?