



Links Players

Journey of Faith - Abraham Sees The Unseen City

*By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.
(Hebrews 11:8-10, ESV)*

Have you ever needed more motivation? You wake up, and you don't want to go to work. You know the yard needs attention, but it's hot, and you can't seem to get off the couch. That expense report must be turned in, yet you would rather have a "root canal."

For most golfers, finding the motivation to go to the course is rarely, if ever, an issue; golfers hardly need a reason to play. When you love something, motivation is easy to come by.

No matter the level at which you play, golf is flat-out so much fun! I was recently invited to play a little nine-hole course. It was clear upon arrival that the level of play mostly consisted of beginners and guys who played once a year.

Most foursomes could be seen and heard from miles away, hooting, hollering, and jumping up and down— belly-laughing was a common sight. Frankly, it was refreshing to see! These guys were motivated to have some serious fun. Even awful shots were seen as an opportunity to "rib one another."

For the more serious golfer, what do you do when things go wrong: your drives are finding the deep rough, you blast a four-footer six feet by the hole, and you leave an easy shot in the bunker? Tons of golfers immediately "go negative." Fewer golfers remain optimistic about the future, the immediate and long-term future.

When God demanded that Abraham sacrifice Isaac, he didn't waiver. How in the world does a father pass that test? Scripture says, "He considered God was able even to raise him from the dead." Seeing the future framed Abraham's trust in the present.

When God called Abraham to leave his country and journey with his family toward an unknown country, he obeyed. Where does he find the courage to live as

a pilgrim (in tents)? Answer—by faith, "...he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God."

When life resembles a long string of bogeys, discover or rediscover the promise(s) in Scripture that holds out an indescribable, eternal, and heavenly future. When you are being tested to the limits of your strength, ask the Father to open your eyes to your eternal inheritance.

This "hope" is the anchor of your soul in the dark times of life. Remember, "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for."

Prayer: Father! Open our eyes to see the "city whose builder and maker is God."

READING - Hebrews 11:8-12; Romans 4:1-25.

1. What do you do when things are going wrong on the course? Complain? Whine? Make excuses? Go negative? If so, how might trust or faith change those reactions?

2. The life of Abraham is presented as the Father of the Faith. When reading these accounts, what things stick out to you as motivators for growth in faith?

3. Application question: What are one or two things in the life of Abraham that challenge you to go deeper in your trust toward God?
