

# The Terre Haute **Speaker**

*“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).*

Volume 1

August 26, 2012

Number 35

## **“By Faith Abraham...”**

*John Isaac Edwards*

**T**he patriarch Abraham is remembered in Hebrews chapter 11 as an outstanding example of faith. The faith of Abraham led him to do what God said without questioning or arguing about it. In studying “By faith Abraham...”, let us be inspired to follow Abraham’s example, and put our faith to work in obedience to God’s every command.

### ***Went Out, Not Knowing Wither He Went.***

“Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee” (Genesis 12:1). If you had been Abraham, what would have been your reaction to God’s call? Genesis 12:4 shows Abraham departing from his homeland in Ur of the Chaldees to go out unto an unknown place. What brought Abraham to leave his country and his people? Hebrews 11:8 gives the answer: “By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing wither he went.” Abraham operated by faith! Would you have trusted God enough to do what He said?

***Sojourned in the Land of Promise.*** Abraham resided in the land of Canaan, that had been promised to him and his posterity, as if he were a stranger and sojourner. Abraham was satisfied to live in moveable tents, feeling assured that, according to “the promise,” he was the heir of a better inheritance than any that was to be

found on this earth. The Hebrew writer spoke concerning Abraham, “By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise” (Hebrews 11:9). Abraham did so because “he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God” (Hebrews 11:10). Would to God that we had the faith to recognize that this world is not our home, we are strangers and pilgrims in a foreign land, just a passing through (1 Peter 2:11).

***Offered Up Isaac.*** God posed a challenge to Abraham’s faith by calling upon him to offer his only son, Isaac, as a sacrifice (Genesis 22:2). This sacrifice would threaten the fulfillment of God’s promise to bring about an entire nation through the descendants of Isaac. How would you have responded, if you had been Abraham? The writer to the Hebrews records, “By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son” (Hebrews 11:17). Here Abraham gave proof of his faith in God (Genesis 22:12).

One cannot sincerely study the faith of Abraham and conclude that he operated by faith only. His faith was the compelling force that moved him to obey God (James 2:21-24). Only precious is our faith when it “worketh by love” (Galatians 5:6).

## “I Will...Before I Die”

John Isaac Edwards

**W**hen Israel was assured that his son, Joseph, was alive and well, he said, “It is enough; Joseph my son is yet alive: I will go and see him before I die” (Genesis 45:28). There are several valuable lessons that can be learned from Israel’s statement, “I will...before I die.”

***I Will Die.*** The words, “I will...before I die” suggest the reality of death. Israel knew that he was going to die. The Scriptures teach, “...it is appointed unto men once to die...” (Hebrews 9:27). The Bible records a host of individuals who were said to have gone “the way of all the earth” (Joshua 23:14). The apostle Paul told the Corinthian Christians, “For as in Adam all die...” (1 Corinthians 15:22). The wise man, Solomon, wrote, “For the living know that they shall die...” (Ecclesiastes 9:5).

***I Plan to Do Some Things Before I Die.*** Israel planned to see his son, Joseph, before he tasted death. We make similar plans today. James spoke of those who said, “To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain” (James 4:13). Some today plan to become a Christian before they die. Others plan to repent and start living right before they die. Sometimes we do our planning as if we are not going to die. Yet

James recorded, “Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away” (James 4:14). Our plans must be made in accordance with God’s will (James 4:15). We do not have a lease on life! It is written, “Boast not thyself of tomorrow: for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth” (Proverbs 27:1).

***I Must Perform My Plans Now.*** The word of God reveals, “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, wither thou goest” (Ecclesiastes 9:10). For many people, their plans never come to fruition; they just keep putting them off “till tomorrow,” and end up taking them to the grave. The Bible places emphasis on doing the will of God, now! Paul said, “...behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation” (2 Corinthians 6:2). Jesus had the attitude, “I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work” (John 9:4). Don’t let life’s opportunities pass you by!

Israel saw his son before he died (Genesis 46:30). Will you do whatever it is that you need to do before you die?

**The Terre Haute Speaker** is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

**Assembling At:**

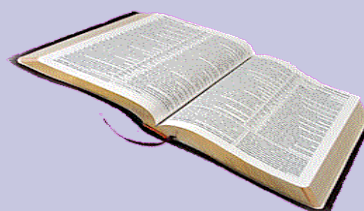
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**Assembling Times:**

Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.



***The Bible  
Is Our  
Only Guide!***