QUESTIONS - "How do you have faith when you don't know the rest of the story? How do you live by faith when you're missing the piece of WHEN or WHERE?"

Faith is voluntary anticipation! Faith is a willingness to trust in God...and wait on His timing...even though we cannot see the WHEN or WHERE.

Read Hebrews 11:8-10...

Genesis 12:1(NIV) - "The Lord...said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.'"

Abram obeyed and moved 1,100 miles north...to modern day Turkey--city called Haran. After living in Haran for a while...Terah [Abram's father dies]. Abram then leaves and migrates southwest with his family--settling in the land of Canaan...modern day Israel. What's remarkable about this trip Abram took is that every step of the way--he did not know WHERE he was going to and WHEN he would arrive!

THREE THINGS ABRAHAM DID THAT DEMONSTRATED GREAT FAITH:

FIRST - Abraham...OBEYED WITHOUT DELAY.

Hebrews 11:8(NIV) - "By faith Abraham when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went."

SECOND - Abraham...WENT ALL IN.

Genesis 12:5(NIV) - "He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out..."

If we aren't careful--as Christ-followers--we can live a type of faith that plants our left foot on the "great faith" side of the fence and our right foot on the "security" side of the fence. THE PROBLEM WITH THAT? The fence we're straddling becomes a problem every time!

THIRD - Abraham was willing to...LIVE AS AN ALIEN.

Hebrews 11:9(NIV) - "By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country..."

HOW DO YOU LIVE A LIFE OF GREAT FAITH?

FIRST - Expect...GOD'S CALL.
Sometimes we Christ-followers think God’s call is primarily for superstars like Abraham. Nothing could be further from the truth. When God called Abraham he wasn’t some biblical superhero--he was just an average guy...like any of us here today.

SECOND - Remember...GOD'S PROMISES.

God didn't sent Abraham to a destination...to a place... without some motivation! Notice the motivation God spoke to Abram in...

Genesis 12:2-4a(NIV) - "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you. So Abram left..."

QUOTE - "The promises of God are the keys to unlocking a life lived by faith."

THIRD - Long for...GOD'S PRESENCE.

Hebrews 11:10(NIV) - "For he (Abraham) was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God."

Do you know what will make heaven so incredible? Will it be streets of gold? Blue skies/75 degrees? Newly invigorated bodies? What will make heaven so incredible will be--God's presence. Every journey of faith leads us into the presence of God!

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OPENING THOUGHT...How do you have faith when you don't know the rest of the story?

QUESTION #1 - What keeps you from "obeying without delay?" Are you stuck there or are you seeing growth in how quickly you obey and walk by faith?

QUESTION #2 - Is there an issue in your life that causing you to straddle the fence with one foot planted in great faith and one foot planted in personal security?

QUESTION #3 - As you look at your life...what about your life reveals that your citizenship is in heaven?

GOING DEEPER...What promises of God are helping you live each day in God's presence? [Share specific passages of scripture]