

THE MISSION OF FAITH

HEBREWS 11:13

- Intro:
1. Does it surprise you that a Hall of Faith is for those who never achieved the goal, attained the prize here on earth?
 2. In our culture Micky Mantle batted his way into fame, Elvis sung his way in, and many others strive to success.
 3. But, in God's work, our mission goal is all in the effort and not in realized results in this life. So, What motivates us to "Go & Tell" the Good News of Jesus Christ?

Prop: **You Must Embrace God's Promises!**

I. **By Envisioning God's Master Plan.**

1. "Having seen them [God's promises] afar off..." contrast "seen" in verse 12, [Gr. eido"/2nd Aorist/Active] which means to take notice once and not forget; to turn the mind's eye toward or to pay attention to. with "seen" in verse 1, [Gr. blepo"] = to see with the bodily eye (evidence = proof or conviction)
2. If we know the finished product [salvation by faith in God's promises], we can work the plan [going and telling].
3. Gen. 5:22-24, Enoch caught the vision of a family led of the Lord's wisdom and he was rewarded by God himself. He wanted more for his family, so he walked with God, Heb.11:5-6
4. A new elementary school is being built nearby, and as we drive by and watch the grading, drain system, now substructure begin built, we know that the builders have seen the master plan and know where they are headed. Their work today seems senseless and useless without the big picture.
5. Friend, God's master plan was stated by Jesus, "to seek and to save that which is lost." Will embrace His promise today and surrender your life to greater service toward His plan?

II. **By Recognizing God's Plan as the Best Plan.**

1. "And were persuaded of them [God's Promises]..."
2. We may not agree on earthly building plans and designs, but the plan of God to save souls from the guilt and punishment of sin through personal faith in Jesus Christ is not negotiable.
3. Noah, vs.7, realized the only way to save lives was to build the boat, by faith! It had never rained, they were in a desert, why build a boat? God said so.

We are instructed in all things to preach the Gospel (1stCor.1:18-21). Food, medicine, clothing—all good and good works necessary, but **PREACHING Imperative**, whether politically correct, culturally acceptable or not. 2nd Tim. 4:2 acclaims the need for the Word of God to be proclaimed, God's Way Every Day.

4. The Sept. ed. of *Homelife* magazine tells of Carolyn, "Japanese by ancestry and Hawaiian by birth, Carolyn Krause was 'a good Buddhist girl.'" "The main emphasis was learning to be good." Along came Christian friends who shared the gospel, and "Along her journey from Buddhism to Christianity, Carolyn Krause discovered she could get up close and personal with God." "As for Buddha," she says, "he showed a way to travel—Jesus said He would show us the way, and, in fact, He was the way."
5. Dear folks, maybe you struggle today with what mission agencies are truly compatible with God's master plan. Maybe you wonder what your calling is in life as a missionary for the Lord. As you use God's Master Plan of telling others of their lost state and need for Jesus' saving work as your guide, and will you commit to supporting and serving in line with the master plan of Jesus—Salvation.

III. **By Moving by God's Directives.**

1. "confessed they were strangers and pilgrims on earth."
2. If we have no permanent dwelling here, then God should be able to move us anywhere on earth to spread the Good News.
3. 2ndCor.5:1-4 speaks of our "tabernacle" = tent, temp. dwelling; that's moveable!
4. What did Abraham and Sarah know that drove them to move out of their homelands to another land? Gen.12:1-3→Abe caught the vision for World Peace, Global Harmony and the use of his descendants to bless the whole world, take away sin and harm – so, HE MOVED based on God's promise.
5. Dear servant of God, today, will you go where God wants you to go, do what he wants you to do? Will you surrender all and move according to his directive? Not family, not heritage, but having embraced the promise, let's move to surrender all.

Envision His Plan – Recognize it as Best – Move His Way