



LIFE GROUP STUDY NOTES

Wednesday 13 AUGUST 2014

TITLE: STUBBORN FAITH

TEXT: *Hebrews 11:13-16*

¹³ These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. ¹⁴ For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. ¹⁵ And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

INTRODUCTION

In the preceding verses we have seen the faith profiles of five Bible characters. Now in vv13-16 we learn some key invaluable insights from their spiritual journeys. Our lives cannot be the same after this!

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION & REFLECTION

1. Who are referred to in v13 as “these all died in faith”?
2. What TWO apparently negative things happened to these heroes of faith although they believed (v13)? How does this apply to us today? Should we stop trusting God if things don’t turn out as we hoped? What is better, to die in faith or to die in doubt?
3. What FOUR positive things did they do (v13)? What does it mean to see the promises from afar and to even embrace them? Is our situation identical to these old covenant saints?
4. What does it mean to be *strangers* on earth? What is the meaning of being *pilgrims* on earth (vv13-14)?
5. According to v15, what makes it possible for people to return (backslide) to “that country”? Are you sometimes tempted to return to your old life?
6. How can you resist the temptation to return to “that country” (vv15-16)?
7. What TWO great results flow from walking by faith (v16b)? What happens when God is ashamed to be called your God? What happens when God is glad to call us His children? Compare: Mark 8:38, Psalm 23:1-6.