Pursuing a Better Country
Heb. 11:8-16

Introduction:
  A. Abraham and Sarah lived in pursuit of a better country.
    1. Lived as strangers in tents in the promised land — owned only a burying place (cf. Acts 7:5)
    2. Believed their decedents would receive that land — they looked for heavenly city (v. 10, 16).
    4. This example is given to encourage us as we pursue the same country.
  B. The pursuit of the better country involved three basic qualities — did for Abraham, does for us.

Discussion:

I. Faith
A. An intelligent faith — based on evidence.
   1. Evidence that God is (v. 6)
      a. Word (Bible) is primary evidence — the miracle of the Bible.
      b. His creation is confirming evidence (Ps. 19:1; Rom. 1:20).
   2. Evidence that He has spoken (Heb. 1:2; 2:1-4; Rom. 10:17)
      a. Promises to enjoy and hope for.
      b. Precepts to obey.
B. An obedient faith (v. 8; Heb. 5:8, 9).
   1. Obeys to become a Christian.
   2. Obeys to remain a Christian.
C. A nurtured faith (Rom. 4:20,21).
   1. Through fellowship with God — study and prayer.
   2. Through exercise of faith — working and testings.

II. Fortitude
A. To wait for the reward (v. 10).
B. To appear foolish and strange to most of the world (1 Cor. 1:20-29; 1 Pet. 4:1-4)
C. To risk great losses to serve the Lord (v. Lk. 14:26)
D. To sacrifice present pleasure and advantage for future reward (vv. 24-26).

III. Focus
A. Focused on goal before us rather than going back or aside (v. 15; Lk. 9:51, 62).
B. Focused on the Lord and heaven (Heb. 12:1-3; Col. 3:2)
   2. Amid all distractions of life (Mk. 4:19).
   3. Amid all difficulties of life. (2 Tim. 2:3,4)
   4. Amid all disappointments of life (2 Tim. 4:14-18)

Conclusion:
  A. Remember: Faith, fortitude and focus?
  B. How do you stand in each of these?