

Introduction:

We are all familiar with **Hebrews 11** and what is often called the "Hall of Fame of Faith". This Mother's Day I want to list some of the women in the Bible who showed great faith in the Bible.

I) Sarah, the wife of Abraham

Hebrews 11:11 *By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. 12 Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude--innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.*

A) Sarah's great faith

1. God's promise to her of having a child.

Genesis 18:10 *And He said, "I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son." (Sarah was listening in the tent door which was behind him.) 11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age; and Sarah had passed the age of childbearing. 12 Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, "After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?"*

2. This promise was fulfilled.

Genesis 21:1 *And the LORD visited Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had spoken. 2 For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.*

- a. This passage leaves no doubt that God's hand was involved in Sarah having a child.
- b. The Hebrew writer points out Sarah's faith was involved in her having a child.

B) Sarah's faith in her life

1. In following Abraham in his travels.
2. In her attitude toward God which was manifested in her attitude toward her husband.

1 Peter 3:3 Do not let your adornment be merely outward--arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel-- 4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. 5 For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, 6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.

- a. Notice Sarah is specifically mention as one who exhibited the gentle and quiet spirit, being submissive to her husband.
- b. Why? Because she trusted in God. Her attitude started with God and then manifested itself in her attitude toward her husband.
- c. This goes for both men and women, if they have the right attitude and relationship with God, then they will have the right attitude and relationship with their spouse.

3. In her beauty.

Genesis 12:11 ***And it came to pass, when he was close to entering Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, "Indeed I know that you are a woman of beautiful countenance.***

- a. Sarah was 65 years of age but part of her beauty was her inward beauty.
- b. There is the outward beauty ***"arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel"*** but the greater beauty is the inward. Abraham knew Sarah was a beautiful woman.
- c. I know a lot of older women who has the inward beauty of Sarah.

II) Moses' Mother (Jochebed) *Exodus 6.20.*

A) She had Moses under trying times. *Exodus 2.*

1. She and all Israelites were slaves, Pharaoh was having the male children killed.
2. She hid Moses for three months, *Exodus 2.2.*
3. She placed her baby boy in a basket on the Nile River, a river with alligators.
4. She then taught her child about his people, about God.

B) Lots of moms face difficult circumstances

1. Single moms either due to giving birth out of wedlock, or divorce, or death of a spouse.
2. Some abort their babies while others give birth. Some give their babies up for adoption. Some keep their babies. The

woman who rears her child and teaches them about God shows great faith.

III) **Hannah, 1 Samuel 1 & 2.**

A) Prayed to God for a child.

1 Samuel 1:10 And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the LORD and wept in anguish. **11** Then she made a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head."

1. If given a child she would rear that child with one main purpose, to serve the Lord.
2. She kept her vow to God.

1 Samuel 1:24 Now when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bulls, one ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD in Shiloh. And the child was young. **25** Then they slaughtered a bull, and brought the child to Eli.

B) One of the greatest acts of faith is to bring up our children in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord". ***Ephesians 6.***

1. Too many parents want something else for their children. Popularity, academic success, sporting success, etc.
2. A child brought up to know God, to worship God, and to serve God; is a child brought up so as to go to heaven.

IV) **Dorcas, Acts 9**

Acts 9:36 *At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did.*

A) She is known for her good works and charitable deeds.

1. No mention of children or a husband. Was she married? Did she have children? We don't know.
2. But we know she was a worker. **Acts 9:39** *Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them.*
3. We know she influenced a lot of people as they were weeping at her passing.
4. Reminds me of the passage in Timothy about widows.

1 Timothy 5:9 *Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number, and not unless she has been the wife of one man, 10 well reported for good works: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work.*

B) I have known lots of women who have done the things mentioned in this passage.

1. Lodged strangers- been in Gospel Meetings where Regena and I stayed with widows who opened their homes to us and others.

2. Washed the saints' feet – showed hospitality to Christians.
3. Relieved the afflicted – provided meals, washed clothes, watched children, taken the sick to doctor, etc.
4. Often what they do goes unnoticed until they are gone.

V) **Priscilla the wife of Aquila**

Acts 18:2 *And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them. 3 So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers.*

A) **Priscilla and Aquila**

1. Worked together in making tents but in serving the Lord.
2. Paul stayed with them.

B) **They were teachers**

1. In the case of Apollos not knowing about the baptism of Jesus.

Acts 18:26 *So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.*

2. There have been many good husband and wife teachers.

C) **The church was in their house**

1 Corinthians 16:19 *The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church*

that is in their house.

1. She was a spiritually minded person and their home was a place the saints could meet to worship.
2. This could have been dangerous due to persecution.

Conclusion:

Just as Hebrews states there were many more than could have been mentioned in **chapter 11**, there are many more women in the Bible and in our lives who could be mentioned as being great examples of faith. To all of you we are thankful.