

# **Third Sunday after the Epiphany**

## **January 26, 2025**

### **SERMON SERIES**

#### ***The Power of the Plus Factor What It Is, and Why You Need It***

#### **SERMON FOR TODAY:**

***“Looking for a City”***

**Scripture: Hebrews 11:1, 8-13 (Common English Bible)**

**1** Now faith is the reality of what we hope for, the proof of what we don't see.

**8** By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was going to receive as an inheritance. He went out without knowing where he was going.

**9** By faith he lived in the land he had been promised as a stranger. He lived in tents along with Isaac and Jacob, who were coheirs of the same promise. **10** He was looking forward to a city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

**11** By faith even Sarah received the ability to have a child, though she herself was barren and past the age for having children, because she believed that the one who promised was faithful. **12** So descendants were born from one man (and he was as good as dead). They were as many as the number of the stars in the sky and as countless as the grains of sand on the seashore. **13** All these people died in faith without receiving the promises, but they saw the promises from a distance and welcomed them. They confessed that they were strangers and immigrants on earth.

**Pastor Kip's Sunday sermons can be found each week in podcast form at "Preaching Now" on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and other platforms.**

# Sermon Notes

Beginning with the eighth verse in today's passage, the author of Hebrews gives an example of Abraham & Sarah's fidelity to God: *"By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was going to receive as an inheritance. He went out without knowing where he was going."*

Here is what their story says to us even yet today:

Abraham & Sarah went where God told them to go...

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_.
- They were not 'perfect' people, but they listened for God's voice telling them to make a difference, to leave home and to go to a place that God would show him.
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Abraham & Sarah's faith was not simply that God exists, but...

- 2) \_\_\_\_\_.
- There are good days and there are bad, but there is always that belief that no matter what, life goes on and ultimately rests in Divine love.
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Abraham & Sarah's ultimate focus was on a...

- 3) \_\_\_\_\_.
- Faith—to really be faith—always has a forward look, a positive expectation, an unquenchable hope. This is the power of the plus factor lived to the maximum impact!
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