



For Further Study

Read and meditate on the passage below:

⁸ By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. ⁹ By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. (Hebrews 11:8-10)

This passage comes from a book in the Bible that has an unknown author. It is written primarily to Jews who are following the Way of Jesus. It seeks to establish the Jewish foundation of Jesus' life and ministry. The eleventh chapter, sometimes referred to as the "Hall of Faith," speaks of different people throughout Israel's history who exemplified tremendous faith in God.

These verses speak of Abraham, who left the Babylonian lands of Ur and traveled to an unknown place. Arriving in Palestine, God reveals to Abraham that this land will one day be inhabited by his descendents. He lived in the land of strangers as a foreigner. Both he and his son (Isaac) and his grandson (Jacob) would dwell in tents as nomads.

Yet, in verse 10, the author speaks of Abraham's forward-looking perspective. Abraham, who didn't live in a city, could see in his mind's eye a glorious city--the city of God. Elsewhere the Bible speaks of God's heavenly city through metaphors such as streets of gold and a crystal sea. These are attempts to speak of the unimaginable beauty of God's space, but what is even more glorious is that he welcomes us into that space.

God loves you and enjoys being with you. You do not have to wait for eternity to be with God. He is near and eager to spend time with you. Imagine being in the city with your God!

PRACTICE:
Spend time with God in whatever way is most meaningful for you.

