

Passage: Hebrews 11:8-22

Title: Faith in Waiting

Summary: The faith that none of us like, the faith of waiting. Give me something to do, give me something that I have some control and say over and I am fine, but put me in a place where I can do nothing but wait and watch, and my faith will be tested to its limited. We see tremendous examples for our encouragement and strengthening from the people spoken of here. Abraham – the Promised Land and the Promised Seed (Messiah), Sarah – the Promised child in her old age, Jacob and Joseph. They all had to wait for promises of God. What might you be waiting for? Join us as we study, “Faith in Waiting”.

Hebrews 11:8-22 (NKJV) ⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; ¹⁰ for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. 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. 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. ¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, ¹⁸ of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called,” ¹⁹ concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. ²⁰ By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. ²¹ By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. ²² By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.

Seventy miles, and 159 years (current year is 2022) from where I write this, I believe every one of our lives were determined. I believe that the world we know today, not just America, was shaped and determined. The land we know as Gettysburg. That July 1-3, 1863, some 160,000 soldiers converged for what would turn out to be the bloodiest battle ever fought on American soil. Over 50,000 lives lost in that war (to put in perspective USA lost 58,000 lives in the 10 years in Vietnam War). The outcome was the Union Army victory over the Confederate Army, which was the decision battle that most all historians, and military schools, agree sealed the fate of the war. The ultimate outcome was that the States of the South, did not (could not) break away from the United States, and thus America stayed the United States of America. I say Gettysburg determined the whole world, because it was THE United States of America that ultimately settled and determine World War 2, and defeating of pure evil, a man called Adolf Hitler, who had he won the war, the whole world as we know it would have been changed, and our world too, who knows if some of us would have even been born based on how Hitler could have changed, ruled, the whole world.

But here is what is interesting, in that Gettysburg, the bloodiest battle in American history was really a happen-chance encounter. Gettysburg was not a strategic military location as it was not a supply-line route, nor economic strong point, nor key political city. It was farmland in Western Pennsylvania, that two armies pretty much by happen-chance came across each other, a battle begin, and reinforcement came flooding in to expand the battle to what it became.

But here is the bottom line of how it all came about, and why it stayed on that ground and did not move off..... Was the Confederate Army under the great General Robert E. Lee could not see what was beyond the battlefield and the trees, because their scouting Cavalry (under General Stuart) failed in their mission to see and inform, General Lee where the Union Army was, so General Lee felt that he was fighting blindly, he did not have all the information needed to make the best choice possibly, so he felt he had no choice but to fight what was before him, and could not risk moving troops into the unknown.

Had General Stuart scouted well..... informed accurately, who knows what the world would look like today.

Chapter 11 – Christ and His Faithful Followers: the Hall of Faith

- [Faith in Worship \(the Worship of the Lamb\) – 11:4](#)
- [Faith in Walking – 11:5-6](#)
- [Faith in Working – 11:7](#)

- [Faith in Waiting – 11:8-22](#)
- [Faith in Warring – 11:23-35](#)
- [Faith in Whatever – 11:35-40](#)

We have looked at Faith in Worship (Abel), Faith in Walking (Enoch), and Faith in Working (Noah), and move now into Faith in Waiting, and Faith in Warring; in all our studies, as we see Noah (build), Abraham (leave and wait), Sarah (follow and wait), and Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph they all had this in common in their faith, they were well informed on the decision they were to make, because God spoke to them. None of them walked by blind faith, not seeing yes, but not hearing no, for God spoke to them and informed them what to do. The decision was by faith, that though they could not see, they had to decide if they would do what God said to do, based on His Word, and based on that He will do what He says He will do, because He is who He says that He is.

His Words Became Their Eyes

And so too it is for you and I here today. God will speak, if we will stop to listen (last week's study – Faith in Walking), and they by faith we step out in Faith in Working, and Faith in Warring (the battles of life in this fallen world, and spiritual world we live), but oh the hardest possibly of all faith, the Faith in Waiting, as we have to wait on what God has promised and spoken.

I remind you, the beauty, that all we read about in the scriptures (and very much here) are written as examples for us, so we can walk by faith, informed by His Word, so we be well pleasing to Him.

Romans 15:4 (NKJV) ⁴ For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV) ⁶ But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- [Who Is God? \(How Great is He?\)](#)
- [What Does He Think of Me? \(How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?\)](#)
- [What Does He Want Me to Do?](#)
- [What Can I Boldly Request of Him?](#)
- [What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?](#)

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

4.) Faith in Waiting – 11:8-22

The faith that none of us like, the faith of waiting. Give me something to do, give me something that I have some control and say over and I am fine, but put me in a place where I can do nothing but wait and watch, and my faith will be tested to its limited.

We see tremendous examples for our encouragement and strengthening from the people spoken of here. Abraham – the Promised Land and the Promised Seed (Messiah), Sarah – the Promised child in her old age, Jacob and Joseph. They all had to wait for promises of God.

(Hebrews 11:8 NKJV) By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

(Hebrews 11:9 NKJV) By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;

(Hebrews 11:10 NKJV) for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Abraham's Story

Abraham's story is from idol worshipper to the land of promise. God called him out from worshipping idols.

Abraham wasn't always a follower of God, he first worshipped false gods and idols:

(Joshua 24:2 NKJV) And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Your fathers, including Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, dwelt on the other side of the River in old times; and they served other gods.

(Joshua 24:3 NKJV) 'Then I took your father Abraham from the other side of the River, led him throughout all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his descendants and gave him Isaac.

But God called him out of the land and promised him a land, and through him the whole world would be blessed (Genesis 12 and Acts 7):

(Acts 7:2 NKJV) And he said, "Brethren and fathers, listen: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran,

(Acts 7:3 NKJV) "and said to him, 'Get out of your country and from your relatives, and come to a land that I will show you.'

(Acts 7:4 NKJV) "Then he came out of the land of the Chaldeans and dwelt in Haran. And from there, when his father was dead, He moved him to this land in which you now dwell.

(Acts 7:5 NKJV) "And God gave him no inheritance in it, not even enough to set his foot on. But even when Abraham had no child, He promised to give it to him for a possession, and to his descendants after him.

Abraham Leaves His Buddies to the Unknown / Then Wait

[V.8 And he went out, not knowing where he was going:](#) So after Abraham turns from idols, God says get up and leave your land, and I'll tell you where you are going when get going. Abraham would have stepped away from all his other idol worshipping buddies, partying friends. He would have left his gang behind, the guys he sat with at the bar, his druggie buddies, and gone to the unknown. God does that today, He tells us to leave the old life behind and come with Him, even though we really don't know where that is, but most importantly, we are getting away from that place which we were in.

From City-Boy to Tents

[V.9 dwelling in tents](#) - Abraham dwelt in tents; even though He was a city-boy. Ur of the Chaldeans was an advanced civilization. Archeologist have uncovered in the area advanced medical center, advanced uses of metal, they found in a house a trigonometry problem that was being worked on, that still mathematicians in Oxford University haven't solved. He had the best of the world, yet he left it, not even knowing where he was going. If you don't know where you are going, you'll know when you get there, but Abraham truly wasn't looking for a place here on earth.

Abraham - This Earth Isn't It

[v. 10 - for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.](#)

Why did Abraham embark on such a venture, such a journey? Because he was looking for a city that had foundations, whose builder and maker was God—all the while knowing that what he was looking for would never be found anywhere on the face of this earth. We use tents when we are only staying somewhere temporarily. We stay in tents when we know there is a house for us to go to for the long stay.

(Hebrews 11:10 NKJV) for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Never be Person of Faith – If Looking for Fulfillment Here

You'll never be a man or woman of faith if you're looking for fulfillment here. No matter your ministry, your geographic location, your job, or who you marry—you'll not find it here. Like Abraham, don't look for a city that has foundations on earth. Look for eternity, and you'll experience heaven in your heart, and you'll be blessed in your soul wherever you are.

Abraham gives us the Key for Waiting / Tent & Altar

We read through the Scriptures that Abraham pitched a tent and built an altar, that was his life. We will never walk in faith here on earth if we don't first build an altar, for the altar will fix our eyes:

(Genesis 12:8 KJV) And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD.

Tent Mentality / Altar keeps us Focused

We need to hold loosely to this world; but to do that, to have the "tent mentality", we have to have an altar, for the altar keeps us focused and centered, our altar is the cross. If we say we have a tent mentality, that the world isn't here, then living for all we can get out of this world is hypocrisy. We have to have a light touch on this world as we wait for our future home.

Yes we Miss Out

Yes we do miss out on what others are experiencing. I say that because sin is fun for a season, but then eventually it puts us in bondage, but we so often forget that. We watch our friends have it all, we watch people climb the corporate ladder by chewing people up, but we just work hard and with integrity, and so often get overlooked. Guys watch their friend living the Hollywood lifestyle, or girls see their friend getting all the guys looking her way, but we live in obedience, moderation, trading those things that are temporal, for the things that are eternal. And yes it is hard, it is hard waiting, as we watch others get it all, and say why wait.

But that is what faith does, it doesn't trade the eternal for the temporal. Faith doesn't sell itself short.

We have a city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God:

(John 14:1 NKJV) "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

(John 14:2 NKJV) "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

(John 14:3 NKJV) "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

(Hebrews 11:11 NKJV) 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.

(Hebrews 11:12 NKJV) 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.

Sarah's Story (over 90)

Genesis chapters 17,18 and 21. That is, she was over ninety years old, and Abraham was almost a hundred. Now when Sara first heard the Lord promising to Abraham that she would have a son. Your wife, Sara, shall bear a son. She was eavesdropping, standing in the tent, just inside the tent flap, eavesdropping on Abraham on these men that were there. And when they said to Abraham, your wife shall bear a child in her old age, she laughed! Oh, no, come on! And the Lord said, why did Sara laugh? She said, oh, I didn't laugh (and I wasn't eavesdropping). But she did! Interestingly enough, when the son was born, they named him laughter, because it was just, well, he brought such joy and laughter to them, to believe at that their age, they could have a son. But by faith, she received strength to conceive in that old age because she judged Him faithful, who had promised.

That's the whole thing. You see God is faithful. We may not have faith. Our faith may waiver, but God who has promised, is faithful! And that's the thing you can count on!

(Hebrews 11:11 NKJV) 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.

Sarah's Turning Point / The God I worship / Has spoken to Me

She had to have faith that would overcome barrenness, her old age, and her husband's old age, she laughed when she heard God's promise, but she is listed here in the Hall of Faith, one of only two woman, because something changed, and she became a woman of faith. When? I say after her encounter in the tent (that's how it appears in the Scriptures). Sarah heard God's voice, she laughs within her, but God says I heard that. **Then she realizes, the God I worship at the altar has just spoken to me.** Sarah no doubt would accompany Abraham to the altar as they would offer the lamb, and believe that God would account that for righteous (Faith in Worshipping). She would realize the God I have sought to draw close to through the blood of the Lamb is now speaking to me. Since He speaks, it shall be.

Maybe you are Sarah Today / Realize the God you Worship has Something for You

Maybe you are like Sarah today, God made you a promise sometime ago, you've been waiting but all you feel is barren, you're tired of watching the others get blessed, others getting all the breaks; and you are tired, depressed, feeling like He doesn't care. Maybe you question that He can ever take away the barrenness or depression in your life and change it into laughter. **We need to realize this, that the God we worship at the cross of Calvary, the one who rose again, is alive, and He is speaking to me, He is leading me, He has something for me. And He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Christian, keep waiting, keep walking, and keep worshipping.**

Martin Luther / take Hold of the Promiser

Martin Luther said to have the faith of Sarah we have to crucify the word "how". We have to quite wondering how He is going to do it, and just believe He is going to do it. Don't take hold of the promise, but the Promiser. When you take hold of the Promiser, then you will have it all.

(Hebrews 11:13 NKJV) 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.

(Hebrews 11:14 NKJV) For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland.

(Hebrews 11:15 NKJV) And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return.

(Hebrews 11:16 NKJV) 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.

Died – Not Receiving the Promise / The Messiah

These all referring to everyone we have just read about since verse one. The promises of what? The promises of the Messiah and the Kingdom of God. They believed it. They looked forward to it. They had the promises of God and they believed the promises of God, but they died in faith, not having received the promise of the Messiah. They had the promise of the Messiah. They believed it and they hung on to it! God will send His Son, the Savior into the world!

Homesick (Study-Pray More because want to be with Dad)

[Verse 13 - strangers and pilgrims on the earth:](#) This isn't our home! The world is not our home! This kingdom of man is not our home. We are citizens of the Kingdom of God. Christian when you say I need to study more, I need to pray more, really what you are saying is that I am homesick, I want to be with my Dad.

God is Not Ashamed / Even in our Failures

[Verse 16 - God is not ashamed to be called their God](#) - Maybe we are ashamed to call Him Dad in certain settings, like Peter, but never.....has He ever said I am ashamed of you.

They grew in their faith, they grew from their failures, and so too will we. Notice none of their walks were perfected: Abraham great man of faith tells Sarah to tell them she is his sister, Sarah laughs at God, they help God out by having a child with Hagar; but God doesn't record that here, He just records their faith.

Like our sins, he chooses to forget our failures:

[\(Hebrews 8:12 NKJV\)](#) "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

(Hebrews 11:17 NKJV) By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,

(Hebrews 11:18 NKJV) of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called,"

(Hebrews 11:19 NKJV) concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

By faith, Abraham would offer his only son to the Lord. Imagine after all that time of waiting for the promised son, now he is faced with losing his son. Maybe you have experienced that in your life; faced with losing a loved one, or have lost a loved one.

Issac & Ishmael

Genesis 22. The promise was, through Isaac shall thy seed be called! When Abraham was about a hundred years old, Sarah was about ninety. And they had not yet had a child between them. A few years earlier, Sarah, had more or less given up, a lapse of faith. She said to Abraham, Abraham obviously we're not going to be able to have a child. So you go into my Egyptian maid and you impregnate her. And she will become a surrogate mother. I will be the midwife when the child is born. And I will take the child in my lap and it will be as our child. And so Hagar, the handmaid of Sarah bore a child. They called his name Ishmael. Ishmael is now about thirteen years old. Abraham loves him. He is Abraham's son. And so God repeated the promise to Abraham. Abraham, I'm going to give you a son. And Abraham said, let Ishmael live before the Lord. In other words, he was sort of saying, Lord, that's all right. You know, I've given up. Let Ishmael live before You. And God promised to make a nation of Ishmael, but God repeated the promise. He said through Sarah shall thy seed be called. Ishmael is not going to be the heir of the promise. Then later when Isaac was born, God said, through Isaac shall thy seed be called.

Thy Only Son – Doesn't Recognize Work of Flesh

Now, it is interesting that when God called Abram to offer Isaac, God said to him. Take now thy son, thine only son, Isaac! God ignored Ishmael. We know that Ishmael was the product of human effort. He was the work of the flesh. And to me it is interesting that God doesn't recognize the works of the flesh. I think that often we are making the mistake of offering to God, our works of the flesh, but we need to realize, God doesn't even recognize them! He only recognizes the work of the Spirit. Take now thy son, thine only son, Isaac, whom thou lovest! Offer him as a sacrifice on the mount that I will show you.

3 Days / Mt Moriah

And so Abraham began to journey for three days from Hebron until they came to Jerusalem. And there, at Mt. Moriah, the Lord showed to him that mount. And Abraham said to the servants, you wait here. I and the lad will go and worship and will come again. And Abraham and Isaac began to climb up Mt. Moriah. And you know the story, a beautiful story of God's provision and Abraham's prophecies. As he called the name of the place, Jehovah-Jireh, he said the Lord will provide Himself a sacrifice, in the mount of the Lord, it shall be seen. And not by accident, not by co-incidence, it was on Mt. Moriah (the top being Golgotha), that Jesus was crucified two thousand later, when God gave His only begotten Son as a sacrifice for our sin!

Genesis 22:7-8 (NKJV) ⁷ But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸ And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together.

God Has the Problem / Abraham's Application

So by faith, Abram, now, Abraham, when God said, take Isaac and offer him as a sacrifice, had the promise of God, through Isaac shall thy seed be called. Isaac, at this point was not married, at this point had no children. So Abraham figures, God, You've got a problem! You asked me to offer my son, Isaac, as a sacrifice. And yet you've promised that through Isaac, the seed will be called. So Abraham believed, interestingly enough, in the resurrection, and of course, Jesus was resurrected from the dead. **But he believed in the resurrection. Great application for us, we take upon ourselves things that are really God's problem, and we try to fix them. God doesn't want us to fix them, He wants us to watch Him fix them.**

They journeyed for 3 long days (3 days of waiting, wondering how is this thing going to turn out, in his mind all the while as if Isaac was dead). But we read in Genesis 22: And Abraham said I am the lad will go worship:

(Genesis 22:5 NKJV) And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you."

Worship / Waiting / Greatest Revelation

This is the first place we see the word “worship” in the Bible, and it has to do with sacrifice, it has to do with yielding to God’s will. We see Abraham who pitched tents and built altars everywhere he went, continue to worship, in his “waiting.” **Sometimes the faith in waiting brings us to that place where we give up our wants and desires, and let God have His way with us.** For Abraham, a man who dined with God, a man who was revealed from God the destruction of Sodom, it was on that mountain top, in that place of not knowing, he received his greatest revelation from God, of his God. It was there that Abraham got to see the picture of the Messiah some 2000 years before God the Father would sacrifice His only begotten Son. This is what Abraham would tell those faithful in Abraham’s Bosom as they waited for the Promised Messiah. Abraham got to act out the crucifixion of God’s Son. He realized what his continual worship and altar building was about, he saw why he pitched tents and built altars.

My Brokenness

On the top of my desk is a stack of letters some six inches thick. They are a reminder to me of God’s faithfulness, and equally important, His grace. It was when I returned to the East Coast after graduating Bible College in California. I had a Master’s Degree, industry experience, getting a job should have been no problem. After month one I realized ok, God is working, He wants to teach me something, use this as an opportunity to show His glory. But one went to two, to three, all the way to nine months. And then, that job was only a temporary job, my friends would tease me and call me a Kelly Girl. I could tell you a whole hour long story of this experience, and the “part 2” that followed in Louisiana, but let me sum it up. It was through this period that God showed Himself to me in a way I had never seen. But first, in order to do that, He had to break me. I was so full of myself, I was so self-dependent, I was so in control, and God had to break me if I was ever to become poured out wine for others. God showed me the deep things within me, the things that could never lead others deeper into Christ. God broke me, and taught me my greatest lesson, **something I could never have learned in Bible College**, or even studying this Word, something I could only learn through experience. It was in this long waiting that God gave me my greatest revelation, that apart from Him, I was nothing, He gave me my greatest revelation – His Grace. That all that I am, for all that I have and do, is because of His grace, because He loves me so much, He gives all these things to me.

Show Me your Love / The Place of Sacrifice

We so often say Lord show me you love me, give me this job, this home, this mate, this ministry, then I will know. But so often God says let me take you down, into the depth of despair, in those times of waiting, **so that I might give you your greatest revelation.** Let me bring you to a place of sacrifice, and you will be able to see the cost that I was willing to sacrifice for you, to pay, to make you my own. Do you want to know my love for you, let me show you the pain of a Father’s heart as He watches His Son bleed to death in front of Him. And maybe there you will receive the assurance that you look for.

[John 3:16 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

(Hebrews 11:20 NKJV) By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

(Hebrews 11:21 NKJV) By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.

(Hebrews 11:22 NKJV) By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.

Isaac / Jacob / Joseph

Next we see listed Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. What we don’t get in their account is their pilgrimage, we don’t get their calling, we only get their finish, a snapshot of them at the end. The idea here is that they are passing on a legacy to the next generation. A legacy of Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, they are passing on the promises of God, the promise of redemption and restoration to those who come to the Lamb. They are passing it on to the next generation. Are we passing on to our kids? 75% of the church today, comes into being before graduation day. Parents, adults, our relationships with Christ must be real, so real that it is contagious, and it is passed on to others. I want to finish like these men, a want to leave a legacy, not of me, but of the promises of the Lamb.

(Hebrews 11:20 NKJV) By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

Not much spoken of concerning Isaac (compared to Abraham and Jacob), but what a man of faith he was. Isaac was probably 33 and Abraham was 133 when Abraham bound him on the altar; Isaac easily could have overpowered his father, but he by faith, believed and trusted God.

(Hebrews 11:21 NKJV) By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.

Jacob Knew the Promised Land would Come

Genesis 49. So when Joseph brought his two sons to his father, Jacob, Jacob was old now. He had lost his sight. He was leaning on his crutch. The two sons were brought to him by Joseph. And Joseph brought the sons with the older one standing on Joseph's left so that when Jacob would put his hands on the sons to bless them, the right hand would go on the older son, Manasseh. The left hand would go on the younger son, Ephraim. And so he brought them to his dad in that position so that when he laid his hands on them, the chief blessing would go to Manasseh, the older son. But Jacob crossed his hands! He put his right hand on Ephraim and his left hand on Manasseh. Joseph said, no, no dad, and started to move his hands. And Jacob said, I know what I am doing son, leave me alone. And so he blessed the sons of Joseph by faith.

It says when Jacob was done blessing the kids, he pulled up his legs in the bed and blasted off. If I don't get raptured, that's how I want to go....3,2,1.....Lift-off.

(Genesis 49:33 NKJV) *And when Jacob had finished commanding his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed and breathed his last, and was gathered to his people.*

(Hebrews 11:22 NKJV) By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.

Joseph Knew The Promised Land would Come

Genesis 50. There he was in Egypt, he was made one of the leaders of Egypt. The Israelites came down. There was this vision that Abraham had. And God interpreted the vision that his descendants would go into Egypt for four hundred years and after that God would deliver them. And so they knew that the promised land was the land of Canaan. It wasn't Egypt.

Genesis 50:25–26 (NKJV) ²⁵ *Then Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here."* ²⁶ *So Joseph died, being one hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.*

So Joseph, by faith, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones. He ordered them, when God delivers you out of Egypt and you go to possess the land, that God has promised to our father, Abraham, I want you to swear that you'll take my bones and bury them in that land. And so he by faith commanded that when the children of Israel would go to the land that God promised, they would take his bones with them and bury them in the land of promise.

No Pyramid for Me

Joseph was number 2 man in Egypt, right behind the pharaoh, but when death came he said I don't want no Sphinx, no pyramid, nor a monument to me, I want to be buried in my fathers house, in the land promised to my people from God Himself. If God said we will inherit the land, then we will, no matter how long it takes.

Summary: The faith that none of us like, the faith of waiting. Give me something to do, give me something that I have some control and say over and I am fine, but put me in a place where I can do nothing but wait and watch, and my faith will be tested to its limited. We see tremendous examples for our encouragement and strengthening from the people spoken of here. Abraham – the Promised Land and

the Promised Seed (Messiah), Sarah – the Promised child in her old age, Jacob and Joseph. They all had to wait for promises of God. What might you be waiting for? Join us as we study, “Faith in Waiting”.

Faith in Waiting:

- His Words Became Their Eyes
- But that is what faith does, it doesn't trade the eternal for the temporal. Faith doesn't sell itself short.
- The God I worship at the altar speaks to me
- Our problems are God's problems - Sometimes the faith in waiting brings us to that place where we give up our wants and desires, and let God have His way with us.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need