



HEBREWS 11 PART 3

The Faith of the Patriarchs

In this continuation of our journey through Hebrews 11, we unpacked the dynamic, transgenerational faith of the patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. These were men and women forced to exercise deep, actionable faith when all empirical data and biological realities screamed that their situations were dead and hopeless. From Abraham willingly placing his ultimate blessing on the altar, to Joseph demanding his bones be carried out of Egypt centuries before the Exodus, they relied entirely on the proven, immutable character of the God who called them. They understood that the kingdom of God operates on a timeline that vastly exceeds a single human lifespan, proving that salvation is non-transferable and requiring every generation to actively own their faith. Ultimately, they were not seeking to build a comfortable earthly empire; they were strangers and pilgrims seeking a heavenly city. This study challenges us to evaluate whether our faith is truly active, whether we are gripping our earthly blessings too tightly, and whether the disappointments of this present world are actively producing within us a holy homesickness for the kingdom to come.

Doctrinal Deep Dive: Covenantal Promises & Pilgrim Faith

True biblical faith relies exclusively on the promises and character of God, often operating in direct opposition to physical or biological realities. It recognizes that God's redemptive timeline spans generations, requiring individuals to actively own their faith while recognizing they are mere pilgrims on earth whose ultimate citizenship and reward are in heaven.

Study Questions

1. The promise to Abraham hinged on a biological impossibility. Why does God frequently wait until a situation is empirically "dead" or impossible before He fulfills His covenantal promises? (OT: Genesis 18:11-14 | NT: Romans 4:19-21)
2. Abraham's faith was tested to the absolute limit in Genesis 22 when he was asked to sacrifice Isaac. Theologically, why does God test our faith by asking us to surrender the very blessings He has given us? (OT: Genesis 22:1-2 | NT: James 2:21-22)
3. Hebrews 11 declares that the patriarchs confessed they were "strangers and pilgrims on the earth" (v. 13). How does a robust understanding of our heavenly citizenship protect us from becoming entangled in the cultural and political wars of this present age? (OT: Psalm 119:19 | NT: 1 Peter 2:11)
4. Like Sarah, you may be looking at a situation in your life that seems entirely "dead." When empirical data and logic scream that it's over, how can you practically anchor your mind to the faithfulness of God? (OT: Jeremiah 32:17 | NT: Hebrews 11:11)
5. We see Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph all blessing the next generation as they were dying. Will your final words and the legacy of your life confidently point your family toward the promises of God? (OT: Deuteronomy 6:6-7 | NT: 2 Timothy 1:5)