

Faith Works

A Legacy of Faith: Part 6

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Review — Faith Works, it produces, *and* it needs to be worked/exercised!

- *Anchor Verse in Hebrews 11*
- **Hebrews 11:1**

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Defined

- **Faith is the substance hoped for** — faith is the **foundational, concrete, assurance** that what you **hope for will happen...** substance and hope must be rooted in the word, ways, and works of God! **Evidence of not seen** — faith is the proof, conviction that the **unseen** and **not yet** will become the **seen** and **enjoyed**!

Today — We will be in Hebrews 11:17-22

The following passage walks us through four intimate scenes in Genesis.

- The Patriarchs — Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph in their final days on this earth.
- The last days, a father's blessing.
- I am praying this awakens something in you today, too.

Hebrews 11:17-22

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," 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.

QUESTION — How do we leave a Legacy of Faith?

There are many legacy moments in a person's life — major transitions

- Kids are going to leave home.

- New job, New house, New baby, New marriage, a New season...
- Maybe you're asking — How do I move on with my life now?
- We all leave a wake behind us — what just happened, where am I headed?

How about those moments where we ask...

- Have to think backwards from the end, to see it before it happens — then don't have to ask...
- How did I get here?
- How did I get here could have been avoided by asking the more important question...
- Where am I going?

It's important to think about what kind of legacy we will leave behind.

- These major life transitions...
- These are all legacy moments.

My Dad died in February.

Legacy moment for me—Difficult relationship, lots of tough memories, great memories.

I was privileged to be in the room with him at the end of his life—by myself. Holding his hand as he breathed his last. Shook me up. Awakened something. *Made me think about what really matters in this life.*

REMEMBERING FROM LAST WEEK:

*We were made for another world,
let's live for it now,
like Abraham and Sarah,
set your heart on pilgrimage,
don't let comfort keep you,
don't let promise paralyze you,
don't let delay defeat you,
don't let the past persuade you—
make sure Heaven has you!*

ABRAHAM

Hebrews 11:17-18

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," concluding that God *was* able to raise *him* up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

THE STORY — Abraham was willing to SACRIFICE Isaac

Abraham ACTED out of Faith by trusting God with his most precious treasure, believing fully that God would resurrect the promise!

We can trust God with our lives.
Faith is not theoretical—it applies to the specifics in our lives.
We can trust God with our lives!

If you want to leave a legacy of faith — you need to trust God and LAY IT DOWN.

Anybody need to lay something down?

- ask God
- lay it down as a sacrifice
- sit back and watch for Him to resurrect it!

ISAAC

Hebrews 11:20

²⁰ By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

THE STORY — Isaac was at the end of his life — he couldn't see.

- God came to Isaac and said “in your seed all the nations will be blessed.”
- Dwelled in the land.
- Found a wonderful wife — Rebekah.
- Accumulated so much wealth and power — so much that people were afraid of him.
- They had twins — while Rebecca was pregnant she noticed the babies were fighting — she asked God — he told her that the younger son (Jacob) would get the blessing over his older brother (Esau).
- Esau was manly/hairy.
- Jacob was smooth and a good cook.
- Towards the end of his life...Isaac couldn't see — asked Esau to come so he can bless him.
- Rebecca conspired with Jacob and they decided to deceive Isaac.
- Food came too quickly, he didn't sound like Esau — but he felt like him, and smelled like him — so he blessed him.
- Esau came back — wept — got the lesser blessing.

Even though Isaac could not see physically, or even see God's blessing clearly, he could still see God's promises fulfilled in the future. Even though he almost got it wrong' God was faithful to bless both of his sons, in particular Jacob.

If you want to leave a legacy of faith— you need to trust God and HAND IT OFF.

Life is a faithful race and a series of very important handoffs. Paul gives us a great example:

2 Timothy 2:2

You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ² And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

- Finish well! Finish strong!

**You have heard it said that life is not a sprint — it's a marathon.
It's not a marathon.
It's a relay race.**

- Be faithful to hand off the blessings and the promises that God has given you!
- You don't choose the transitions in your life.
- But you choose if you will listen to the Lord or not, and if you will faithfully pass it along.

If you want to leave a legacy of faith — you need to faithfully HAND IT OFF.

JACOB

Hebrews 11:21

²¹ By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, *leaning* on the top of his staff.

THE STORY — Jacob leaning on his staff Genesis 48

- The scene — Jacob has 12 sons.
- He brings in Joseph — a man of great power in Egypt at this point — second in command to Pharaoh
- Joseph's two sons Ephraim and Manasseh — Jacob swaps his hands to bless his grandsons, blessing the younger over the older; creates a divided tribe.
- Actually, adopts his grandchildren as heirs — they become the divided kingdom of Israel.

Notice the added details in Hebrews 11:21...leaned in...lifted it up

- What's he leaning on? A staff- why?
- When he was a young man — he was in a wrestling match with an Angel— he wrestled all night.
- It was almost morning and he had ahold of the man and he wouldn't let go until the Angel blessed him.
- The Angel asked him — what is your name? It's Jacob.
- The Angel said — “Now you will be called Israel, because you wrestled with God and prevailed.”
- Then he touched his hip and injured him there.
- He walked with a limp for the rest of his life.
- **Staff reminded him of when he wrestled with God.**

If you want to leave a legacy of faith — you need to **WORSHIP!**

- Want to go out in style? *Lean into what God has promised you, and **WORSHIP HIM!!!***
- Don't point to the blessings — point them all to the *One who gives the blessings!!*

**You don't leave behind accomplishments —
you leave behind relationships.**

JOSEPH

Hebrews 11:22

²² By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.

THE STORY — Joseph and his bones

- Joseph believed that God would bring them home. He trusted that so much, he planned on them bringing his bones back home!
- Joseph would never get home...he knew that — but he didn't want his brothers to stay — he wanted them to get to their true home!
- Moses would deliver God's people in the Exodus some **400 years into the future**.
- **Joseph — You don't belong here. Don't you forget it. Go home.**
- He remembered the promise, and his final dream was to be back home.

If you want to leave a legacy of faith — REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE, AND WHERE YOUR HOME IS.

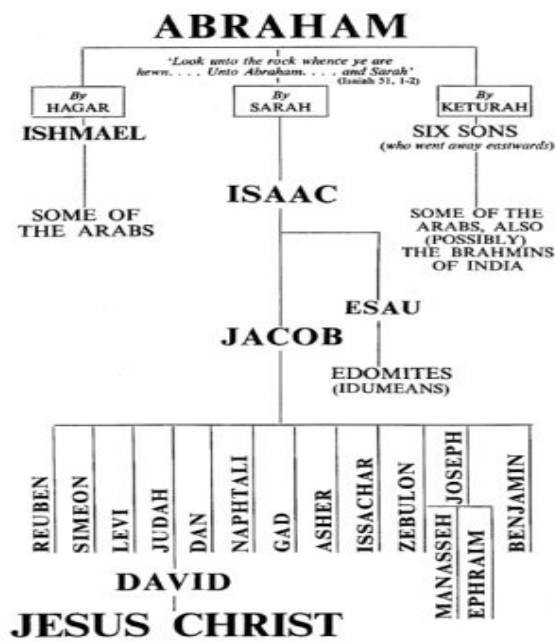
If you want to live a legacy of faith...trust God enough to...

Lay it down.

Hand it off.

Worship.

Remember who you are, and where your home is.



Discussion Questions

1. Is there a major transition going on in your life right now?
 2. Can you see how it can be used as a “legacy moment”?
 3. What are some things God might be asking you to “lay down”?
 4. Is there anything specifically that you are struggling with letting go?
 5. Are you making plans to “hand off” your legacy of faith? To whom?
 6. How do you leave a legacy of faith by worshiping?
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Before the Throne: A Night of Worship

June 13, 2018

6:30 pm

Sanctuary