

The Promise: Faith's Future

Hebrews 11:20-22

INTRODUCTION:

I. Faith's Future Yields Blessings (vv.20-21)

A. The blessing of Isaac

1. Based on God's promise to Abraham
2. Through Isaac
 - a) **Genesis 25:21-26**
 - b) **Genesis 27:26-30**
3. Perfect promise through perfectly flawed people
 - a) Isaac couldn't depend on the faith of his daddy
 - b) Isaac depended on the faithfulness of his father's God
 - c) Ultimately, Isaac sets for us the example that faith is believing in, and acting upon, God's expressed will

B. The blessing of Jacob

1. Through the generations
 - a) Beyond death (all three)
 - b) **Genesis 48:1-22**
2. Worship is the present result of future faith
 - a) **Genesis 47:31**

- b) Worship is really about God's pleasure, and God is pleased with faith (**v.6**)

II. Faith's Future Yields Enduring Hope (v.22)

A. Joseph's reminder

1. The Exodus
 - a) For all but the first 17 years, Joseph spent his life in Egypt
 - b) This was still not his home
2. God's sovereign deliverance

B. Joseph's instructions

1. Perceptively
2. Provisionally
3. **Genesis 50:24-25**
 - a) Death is a test of faith
 - b) **Charles Spurgeon**, "*Death is a thorough test of faith. Beneath the touch of the skeleton finger shams dissolve into thin air, and only truth remains; unless indeed a strong delusion has been given, and then the spectacle of a presumptuous sinner passing away in his iniquities is one which might make angels weep. It is hard, very hard, to maintain a lie in the presence of the last solemnities; the end of life is usually the close of self-deception.*"

C. Faith's future produces a present enduring hope

1. Hopeless? Look backward forward...
2. **Romans 5:1-1**

CONCLUSION:

- Are you here today, as a believer, and yet weak in your faith?
- Perhaps you profess to be a believer, yet death frightens you and brings uncertainty...
- Maybe you know you have no hope, and you're here today looking...