



Isaac

Hebrews 11:20 *“By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future.”*

To know the faith of Isaac you must dig deep. There are many instances where Isaac is given to us in different forms. He is a child, father, brother, and husband. Isaac failed and succeeded in life. Paul; however, mentions Isaac several times in the faith chapter of Hebrews 11. A few things I'd like to point out right away. The first is that Paul says Abraham was *as good as dead* in verse 12. Paul is implying that the main part of Abrahams life was over. No more children, careers, and adventures. He is old now. Yet, God gave this old man a miracle reserved for the young.

The second observation is that Isaac received a covenant with God before he was born. What? In Genesis 17:21 *“But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year.”* God says He will establish a covenant with Sara's son. He told her this before she conceived. The key for God is saying “I will.” It is not “I might?” Isaac is blessed of God right from the beginning. He is a miracle child that will be blessed. For Paul to pick those “by faith” is not an accident. There are people in the Bible Paul did not mention. Yet, I feel that Isaac is mentioned several times because his faith was a good one!

How do we grow our faith? Let's read Romans 12:3.

“For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.”

The covenant God established with Abraham said He would give Abraham an inheritance of nations and children. Yet, to have longevity one must endure. A family line is grown. By faith Isaac grows. Yet, it begins in his young life with a trial. That is how faith is grown. We tend to think Abraham’s faith is grown by the sacrifice of Isaac. Yet, this boy is old enough to think and talk. This is not a child. You’re telling me Isaac didn’t get what his father was going to do for God? Yet, by faith, Isaac laid down his life. Willingly, he was bound? Regardless, Isaac survived the ordeal. He kept his faith towards the Lord. This man named Isaac had to grow his faith the hard way. Relying on people and God to increase his faith. Through trials that were not easy. To me this was the making of a man.

By faith is an interesting statement about Isaac. Paul mentions that by faith Isaac blessed his two sons. Well, that is not totally true. One son deceived Isaac. In fact, we could say that Isaac’s own wife deceived him over that blessing. Yet, I know what Paul is driving at. By faith Isaac passed on the blessing that God gave him. A promise to further the line of Abraham. To be the father of many nations. He believed that it would happen. That God would supply. Even in deception, Isaac knew in his heart that the will of the Lord was taking place.

Paul knew it too. In Hebrews 11 Paul continues to say Isaac’s children would receive the blessing by faith. No matter the culture or continent, family matters. One of the biggest riffs in this world is the role of women. Each country has a different view. Yet, family matters. Having children matters. It is not rocket science. If the family thrives then so does the country. To Abraham it was all about the inheritance. Was it money, gold, or sheep? No, it was children.

Everyone dies. Yet, you live on if your descendance live on. Abraham was willing to sacrifice his inheritance for God. That was a big deal to God. By faith Abraham believed God would supply even if he sacrificed his son. That is a big deal to Paul!

Paul goes into great detail about Abraham and his children not knowing what would happen in the future. They were a nomad family. These people, at times, settled in the land. Yet, God moved them. Jesus said in Matthew 8 that He did not have a home. That is not totally true. He could have lived with his mother. Yet, Jesus chose to roam. To live away from home. I think one of the symbols of believers of God is to be homeless on this earth. Not in the physical sense more or less. Many of us have a home. Yet, if God called you to move to an unknown land, would you? We reside in a land but our home is heaven. We worship in a church but we are asked to go forth to other lands. Abraham moved and so did Jacob and Moses. David rarely had a home. Yet, by faith, each of these people moved when God called them.

Paul uses Isaac because this man had watched his father's faith being tested. Isaac's faith would be tested. Paul realized that his own faith was tested. We are to let go of this earth. Why don't people just commit suicide? Go to heaven now? It is because God respects those who live by faith in the things unseen. We cannot see God, yet we believe. We cannot see heaven, yet we hope in it. We are to trust in the Lord when He does not answer immediately. To pray and wait in faith. These greats of the Old Testament are great because they still believed after their faith failed. In the end, Isaac trusted in the faith of his father. Trusted, by faith, in his God.