

The Patriarchs: A Persisting Faith

(Hebrews 11:20-22)

I. Isaac

- A. Isaac, lived a relatively quiet life and was probably best known for his spiritual weakness and his somewhat passive nature.
- B. His weakness showed up immediately in verse 7...
7* And the men of the place asked *him* of his wife; and he said, She *is* my sister:
- C. His father, Abraham, did it twice, in Genesis 12 and 20.
- D. And so the 26th chapter, he behaves in precisely the same way.
- E. But then comes the word from the Lord.

24* ...I *am* with thee, and will bless thee, and multiply thy seed for my servant Abraham's sake.

1. Here's the repeat of the Abrahamic Covenant given to him.
2. Here we see that this is a man of faith.

II. Jacob

- A. Jacob was like his father Isaac. .
- B. Victories came very hard for him.
- C. Sin in his life was heavy, but his faith never waned.
- D He is terrified of his brother, Esau.
- E. When you look at the life of Jacob, you see a lot of problems in his life, obviously, all the duplicity, all the lies, all the deception, yet he is anxious for the Lord to be his God.
- F. The time came for Jacob to pass away and he passes on the birthright, he passes the birthright on to Joseph.

III. Joseph

- A. Hebrews 11:22 states about Joseph that he also while dying he made mention of the exodus of the sons of Israel and gave orders concerning his bones.
- B. Joseph says, "I'm about to die but God will do what He promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob."

IV. Conclusion

- A. This is faith at its highest level.
- B. Unless you think that's something very unusual and heroic, that's how you believe, too, because the heaven that holds you to Christ is a heaven you have never seen.
- C. That's what it means to live by faith.