

Faith that Defeats Death

Text: Hebrews 11:20-22

Main Idea: When death comes for true people of God, their *unshakeable faith* in the promises of God is like the sun, which seems larger than ever when it sets on the horizon.

1. **Isaac:** Faith that defeats death has a *surrendering* _____ in the promises of God. (v. 20, Gen 27, 28:1-5)
2. **Jacob:** Faith that defeats death has a *strengthened* _____ in the promises of God. (v. 21, Gen 47:29-3, 48, 49:29)
3. **Joseph:** Faith that defeats death has a *steady* _____ to the promises of God. (v. 22, Gen 13:15, 50:24-26, Ex 13:19)

- Joseph's faith was not _____ by prosperity.
- Joseph's faith was not _____ by spiritual darkness of Egypt.
- Joseph's faith was not _____ by selfish ambition.

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Application Questions:

1. For the believer in Christ, death is not to be feared but rather embraced, so that all the promises of God can be fully realized. Read the following verses: Phil 1:21, 2 Cor 5:6-8, Ps 16:11. How should we view death? Is there a way to die that will bring glory to God and encourage the faith of the next generation to persevere?
2. Each of these patriarchs (Isaac, Jacob & Joseph) were adamant about having their bones carried back to the promise land of Canaan. Specifically, Joseph forewent having an incredible burial in Egypt so that his bones could be sent back to Canaan when the Israelites entered the promise land (see Ex 13:19). What was each of these patriarchs wanting to accomplish by having this done? Was it for them, or for others? How should this motivate us to **exploit** our death for the sake of others around us for the glory of God and the good of others?
3. It is interesting that Isaac trembled in Genesis 27:33 when he discovered that he had been deceived by Jacob & his mother Rebekah. At first glance it may appear that Isaac was angry. But do you think that the trembling could be something else in relation to what God had already told him in Gen 25:23? How was Isaac's last moment of giving the blessing to Jacob an exercise of faith?
4. In Genesis 47-49, Jacob switches his hands on the blessing of his grandsons, and Joseph becomes angry? How is this similar to the blessing given to Jacob and not Esau? How does this blessing given to the younger go against human convention and tradition? What does this teach us about the character of God? See Romans 9:10-13.
5. How was Joseph's faith a steady commitment? How did Joseph know about the promise of the exodus (Hebrews 11:22)? How was it a significant act of faith that Joseph being such a strong, powerful and influential man to say he wanted his bones to be carried back to Canaan?

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