

SERMON OUTLINE

'Who by Faith' - 6

Studies in Hebrews 11

Hebrews 11 v20 - 22 & Genesis 25 v19 - 34 / 27 v1 - 40

Note - the 'by faith' record of Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph is of each of them in their old age. See Heb 11 v20 - 22. Application? See v13a. Key Question - in old age will this be true (is this true) of you and me that we will be found (that we are) "still living by faith"?

Remember our definition of faith - biblical faith (saving faith and persevering faith) is always faith in God, and in particular, what God says in His word. In other words, faith not only trusts God - faith hears God and obeys God as God reveals to us His word and His will. Notice how this applied to the life of Isaac, in that we see:-

1. ISAAC - DISCOVERING THE WORD AND THE WILL OF GOD

What was God's word to Isaac? What was his will for Isaac's life with particular respect to his sons, Esau and Jacob? See Heb 11 v20.

A. HOW GOD'S WORD AND WILL WAS REVEALED TO HIM

See Gen 24 v60 & Gen 25 v19 - 23. God's sovereign plan with respect to the two boys was going to overturn the conventional order of things in that all the material and spiritual privileges that went to the first born son (Esau) would go to the second born son (Jacob) - in other words, it was going to be in and through Jacob that God was going to forward His gospel purposes which, in the fullness of time, would bring the Lord Jesus Christ to this earth.

B. HOW GOD'S WORD AND WILL WAS CONFIRMED TO HIM

See Gen 25 v27 - 34. Key Question - When this happened (and Isaac heard of it) - did he remember the words of the prophecy?

2. ISAAC - RESISTING THE WORD AND WILL OF GOD

See Gen 27 v1 - 4. Notice....

A. ESAU WANTED TO RECEIVE THE BLESSING FROM ISAAC

B. ISAAC WANTED TO BESTOW THE BLESSING UPON ESAU

And he sought to do this in defiance of the word and will of God.

Note - He tried to do it all secretly!

Key Question - What had happened to Isaac? Key Verse - See Gen 25 v28. Isaac had lost his appetite for spiritual things, whilst (at one and the same time) he had gained more and more of an appetite for physical and material things. The most important thing for him in his old age was the needs of his stomach!

3. ISAAC - EMBRACING THE WORD AND WILL OF GOD

Key Point - God can always be trusted to bring about that which He has promised to do. Rebekah didn't have the faith to believe this, and so she took things into her own hands and tried to manipulate the will of God, with disastrous consequences for her. Yes, things worked out as she planned with the blessing going to Jacob - but she was never to see Jacob again!

Key Verses - See Gen 27 v30 - 33. The phrase "and indeed he will be blessed" is an expression of faith - it's Jacob, at last, submitting to the word and will of God.

Key Lesson - Embracing the word and will of God is always the way to blessing. Think of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemene - "Not my will be done but your will be done."