



## Persevering Faith Obeys God Even in Death

Forty-Four • Hebrews 11:17-22

**DEATH** Has Been the Theme Throughout Abraham's Faith Journey. (11:8, 9, 11-12, 13, 17-19)

### Persevering Faith Obeys God Even in the Face of Death

#### 1. Persevering Faith **RULES OUT** Compromise When Obedience Is Deadly.

Background for Abraham Offering Up Isaac: Genesis 22:1-19, esp. 21:12; 22:2-5

- God's test was a **DEADLY PARADOX**. (vv. 17-18)

*"By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son; it was he to whom it was said, "in Isaac your descendants shall be called." (vv. 17-18; Genesis 21:12)*

#### Why Does God Test Our Faith Like This?

1. God tests us to **GROW** us through obedient faith, but Satan tempts us to **GUILT** us through disobedient unbelief. (James 1:2-4, 13)
2. God never tests with **MORE** than we can handle by grace through faith. (1 Corinthians 10:13)
3. God tests to draw us **NEARER** to Him, but Satan tempts to drive us **AWAY** from God. (Genesis 22:12–18)

#### The Paradox of Obedient Faith

**Paradox of Sacrificing Isaac:** Sacrificing this promised son meant losing everything or did it?

**Paradox of Obeying God:** Obeying God appears to mean losing what He had already promised or did it?

- Abraham's faith was **OBEDIENT** even in the face of death.

*"By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten...He considered that God is able to raise even from the dead" (vv. 17a; 19a)*

God's command was **ILLOGICAL** according to human reason, but Abraham's conviction was **LOGICAL** according to divine revelation. (Hebrews 11:19a; Genesis 22:5)

#### The Logic of Faith Is Rewarded in the End

Sarah at Isaac's Birth (v. 11) and Abraham at Isaac's Near Death (v. 19) as well as Moses Choosing Christ's Reproach Over Egypt's Riches (v. 26)

- God's character was **FAITHFUL** even in the death of a dream.

1. His faithfulness **PROVIDED** the needed substitute for sacrifice. (Genesis 22:8, 13-14)
2. His faithfulness **PICTURED** the future resurrection of the dead. (v. 19b)

*"The Holy Spirit is **signifying** this, that the way into the holy place has not yet been disclosed while the outer tabernacle is still standing, which is a **symbol** for the present time..." (9:8-9)*

#### 2. Persevering Faith **STANDS OUT** at the Finish Line of Death. (Greater Blessings!)

Background for Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph: Genesis 23–50

The covenant promises to Abraham have now moved from *land* to *seed* to **BLESSINGS!**

Abraham's *fellow-heirs* are speaking blessings to the next generation despite dying without **FULLY RECEIVING** all the blessings themselves!

- **ISAAC**, nearly blind and dead, **BLESSED** his sons "regarding things to come." (v. 20)  
*"By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau, even regarding things to come." (v. 20)*

**Background Genesis 27:1-46, esp. vv. 21-41**

1. By far-sighted faith Isaac **SEES** future blessings for both Jacob and Esau. (11:13-14)
2. By persevering faith Isaac **TRUSTED** God's plan over his own preferences – *even if he did so imperfectly!*

**Why Did God Have Isaac Bless Both Jacob and Esau?**

1. God is a God who **LOVES** to bless all peoples!
2. God's blessing in this life doesn't **GUARANTEE** His blessing in the life to come.
3. God's blessing in this life doesn't **CANCEL** His curse of wrath on those who fall away, (12:15-17)

- **JACOB**, as he was dying, blessed "each of the sons of Joseph" still **WORSHIPING** as a wanderer.  
*"By faith Jacob, as he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff." (v. 21)*

**Background Genesis 48:1-22, esp. 14-16, 20-22**

**Jacob's Blessing Was God-**PLEASING**** – Genesis 48:15-16

1. "The God before whom my father's Abraham and Isaac walked," (v. 15a)
2. "The God who has been My Shepherd all my life to this day" (v. 15b)
3. "The Messenger (Angel) who has redeemed me from all evil," (v. 16a)

**Jacob's Blessing Passed on the **PROMISES** of the Abrahamic Covenant**– Genesis 48:16b, 20-22

**Jacob's Blessing Passed on the **LEGACY** of a Wanderer Who Worshiped God by Faith** – Genesis 47:31 (LXX)

- **JOSEPH**, when he was dying, **REMINDS** others of God's greater blessings by his burial arrangements.  
*"By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the exodus of the sons of Israel, and gave orders concerning his bones." (v. 22)*

**Background Genesis 50:22-26**

1. Remember there's a coming **EXODUS** out of Egypt: *Future deliverance from the bondage to sin!*
2. Remember there's a coming **ENTRANCE** into the Promised Land: *Future rest in God's promised place!*
3. Remember there's a coming **RESURRECTION** from the dead to inherit in the Land and much more: *Future perfection as God's people dwelling in God's presence in God's place from heaven on earth!*

**Persevering Obeys in Even in the Face of Death!**

*It keeps moving forward in obedience knowing God's blessings are greater than the curse of death!*

**Wander Obediently as You Wait for God's Promised Future Even in the Face of Death!**

*Leave a legacy as a wanderer that passes on God's future, heavenly blessings even in the face of death!*

<b>HEBREWS 11: PERSEVERING FAITH KEEPS MOVING FORWARD to PLEASE GOD!</b>		
<b>PATRIARCHS: PERSEVERING FAITH OBEDIENTLY WAITS for GOD'S PROMISED FUTURE LIKE ABRAHAM &amp; HIS HEIRS!</b> (vv. 8-22)		
<p><b>ABRAHAM with SARAH &amp; SONS</b> (vv. 8-12)</p> <p><b>Wander Obediently as You Wait for God's Promised Future in the Face of the Unknown!</b></p> <p><i>Live as wanderers on earth who look for and long for God's future, heavenly City even in the face of the unknown!</i></p>	<p><b>ALL THESE HEIRS</b> (vv. 13-16)</p> <p><b>Died in Faith Without Inheriting the Promises</b></p> <p><i>Like them see and welcome God's future realities, by confessing you are wanderers on this earth!</i></p>	<p><b>ABRAHAM, ISAAC, JACOB &amp; JOSEPH</b> (vv. 17-22)</p> <p><b>Wander Obediently as You Wait for God's Promised Future Even in the Face of Death!</b></p> <p><i>Leave a legacy as a wanderer who passes on God's future, heavenly blessings even in the face of death!</i></p>
<p><b>Genesis 12–21</b></p> <p><i>Based on Covenant Promises: Land &amp; Seed!</i></p>	<p><i>Diligently desire God's better homeland in heaven. And He will not be ashamed to be called our God, for He has prepared His City for us!</i></p>	<p><b>Genesis 22–50</b></p> <p><i>Based on Covenant Promises: Blessing!</i></p>