



FaithFull

Week 9 | Faith that Sees

October 18, 2026

Reading of the Word

“ Hebrews 11:20–22 (ESV)

20 By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. 21 By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. 22 By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.

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Hebrews chapter 11 is a list of people through history that have been **full of faith**. By these examples, Hebrews is showing us what faith is.

- Faith starts in our mind, it cements itself in our heart, and then it can't help but show up in our hands and feet as we live. Faith is allegiance.
- The next examples of faith come after Abraham. Abraham's son Isaac. Isaac's son Jacob. And Jacob's son Joseph.

- He says, by faith Isaac blessed his sons. By faith Jacob blessed Joseph's sons. And by faith, Joseph gave everyone his funeral directions.
- We're fuzzy on what THW is pointing to. We need the gaps filled in. So to help with that, let's think about *Isaac's Eyes*, *Jacob's Staff*, And *Joseph's Bones*.

Isaac's Eyes.

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Hebrews 11:20–22 (ESV)

20 By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau.

- Isaac, is of course, the son of promise from last week. Isaac marries Rebekah and they have twin sons, Esau and Jacob.
- Esau is the older by minutes, and Jacob is the younger.

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- **The *Law of Primogeniture*-**

- a concept that says the firstborn gets everything.
- Virtually all the ancients practiced the *Law of Primogeniture* but at every turn in the Bible, God seems to undermine it.
- So here: even from the time they're born, God says, it's not Esau, it's Jacob.
- Isaac knows God's plan is for the older Esau to serve the younger Jacob. But despite what God said, Isaac determines to give the blessing to Esau.

¹When Isaac was old and his eyes were dim so that he could not see, he called Esau his older son...

Genesis 27:1 (ESV)

- Isaac calls Esau to him, and says, *I don't know how much longer I have. I want to bless you before I die. So, go hunt and bring me back some game to eat, and I'll bless you.*

⁵Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to his son Esau...

Genesis 27:5 (ESV)

- Rebekah, Isaac's wife, overhears all this. She tells Jacob that Esau is about to get the blessing that God promised to him.
 - So they plan. Rebekah will fix a meal she knows Isaac loves, and Jacob will disguise himself and pretend that he's Esau and go in before Esau gets back, and get the blessing.
 - And it works. Blind Jacob thinks he's blessing Esau, when he's really blessing Jacob.
 - Later, Esau comes in for his blessing. Isaac realizes what has happened. The text says he *trembled violently*, and he says to Esau, *He is the one who will be blessed*. (Genesis 27:33)
- That's the moment of faith Hebrews points to.

Faith comes **after** he's given Jacob the blessing. After he blessed Jacob, whom he did not intend to bless, *he **does not ever change his blessing***.

- Isaac realizes that God's promises will come true despite his opinions.
 - God's blessings are not given to us because we deserve them, but because we need them.
 - Likewise, God doesn't give us blessings in Jesus because we deserve them, but because we need them.

Isaac's eyes couldn't see two feet in front of him. But Isaac's faith could see two centuries down the road, what God was doing.

Jacob's Staff.

“ Hebrews 11:20–22 (ESV)

21 By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff.

- If you don't have faith when you face death, then you don't have faith.
- So Jacob comes to his dying days in Egypt. Joseph goes to see his father Jacob, and brings his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.

”

- Jacob blesses Joseph with the everlasting covenant. And then he blesses Joseph's sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.
- Hebrews says that he does this as he bows over the head of his staff. *Leaning* on it would be the right way to read it. He's old and feeble and needs some help as he blesses his grandsons.

⁵And now your two sons, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; Ephraim and Manasseh shall be mine, as Reuben and Simeon are.

Genesis 48:5 (ESV)

- The thing to note about Reuben and Simeon, is how un-notable they are. They are common shepherds. Country hicks. Little else.
- But what are Manasseh and Ephraim? They are sons of a Prime Minister.
- Reuben and Simeon are low caste, inadmissible to Egyptian high society. Manasseh and Ephraim are the highest caste. Princes of position and fortune.

⁵And now **your two sons, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, **are mine; Ephraim and Manasseh shall be mine**, as Reuben and Simeon are.**

Genesis 48:5 (ESV)

- Look what Jacob says: *Ephraim and Manasseh will be mine, just like Reuben and Simeon are mine.*
- From here on, **they will not be Egyptians, but Hebrews.** I will treat them as my own sons. They will not choose a career as an Egyptian Priest. All the glitter and gold in front of them, Jacob says, I reject for them. And they will serve the true God of their fathers Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob.
- Old man Jacob, leaning on his staff, is coaching his grandsons to turn away from their destiny as princes of Egypt, and calling it **blessing** to do so.
- And this is where the faith happens. He sees the God of Abraham continuing to work his covenant promise.
- *They will be mine*, just like Reuben and Simeon. They will have more treasure and riches walking with God than Egypt could ever think about.

Only by faith in the God who made the promise.

Joseph's Bones.

²²By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.

Hebrews 11:22 (ESV)

- Fast forward about five decades. Joseph is in his last days.

²⁴And Joseph said to his brothers, **"I am about to die, but God will visit you and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."** ²⁵Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here." ²⁶So Joseph died, being 110 years old. They embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

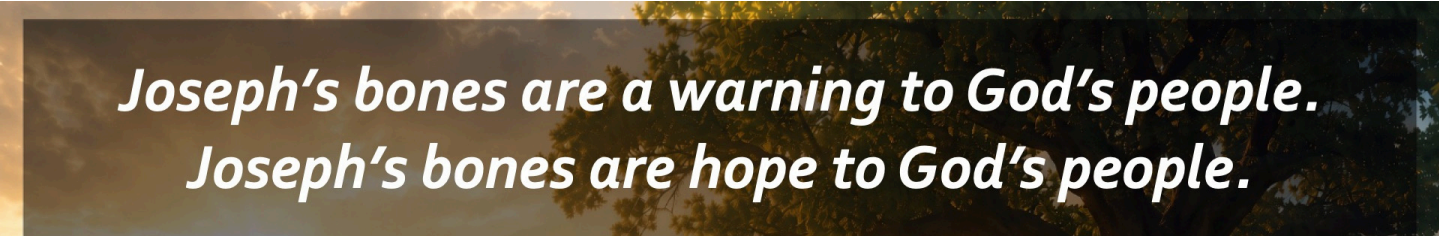
Genesis 50:24-26 (ESV)

- He makes his brothers repeat it out loud, and swear to what he was saying.
- *Nothing will ever stand in the way of Israel one day possessing the land God promised.*
- Secondly, he does a little pre-arranging of his funeral. He says, *Don't bury me in Egypt. Only bury me in the Promised Land.*

²²**By faith** Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.

Hebrews 11:22 (ESV)

- 400 years later, Moses carries Joseph's remains out of Egypt. Exodus 13:19.
- Another generation later, as Joshua enters the land and conquers it and buries Joseph's bones in Shechem. Joshua 24:32.
- And Hebrews says that this very moment happened by faith.
 - Joseph was 17 when he was sold into slavery by his brothers. He never goes back to Canaan. For 93 years, his home is Egypt. For 400 years all of God's people live in Egypt.
 - And when Joseph is dying there's no reason to ever think about leaving Egypt.
 - But Joseph's faith sees what no one else sees. God didn't promise Egypt, he promised Canaan.
- Joseph's faith is in the infallibility of **God's promise: *He will bring you out. He will give you a land.***
 - Joseph is so sure the people of God will go out from Egypt that he postpones his burial until they do.
 - Joseph turns his funeral planning into a way to express absolute confidence in God's promises.



Joseph's bones are a warning to God's people. Joseph's bones are hope to God's people.

Warning: This place is not your home. You're going to have to leave this one day.

Hope: Better days, and a better land, is coming.

- One of the markers of incredible faith, is when your faith creates faith in the lives of other people.
- Hebrews points to these three patriarchs and says, that's real faith.
 1. Isaac couldn't see, but his faith could.
 2. Jacob couldn't stand, but his faith could.
 3. Joseph couldn't save his people, but his faith could.
- a. They exercised faith in what was invisible to them in the present.
- Are you sure in the same ways? Are you sure, like Isaac, that God can still bring good out of that thing you wanted to play out a different way?
- Are you sure, like Jacob, that whatever God promises is 100 times better than what the world around you promises?
- Are you sure, like Joseph, that God will visit us again. That Jesus is coming back. And when he does, he'll have a place for you, and will carry you home?

FaithFull believes God's word.

FaithFull trusts God's word.

FaithFull responds to God's word.

FaithFull sees the invisible realities of God shining all around, and lives in it's light.

God, may we prove to be FaithFull even until the very last moments we have on earth. Give us eyes to see what you see. Give us a staff to help us stand on your promises. Give us bones that will one day see heaven, a resurrected body, saved to eternity by the resurrection of the Great Deliverer, Jesus. These things we ask in His name, Amen.

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