

# I Believe

## “Do You Believe God Holds Your Future?” Hebrews 11:20-22 – May 29, 2022

I BELIEVE			
Exploring What You Believe from the Bible's Hall of Faith			
Date	Message Title	Hebrews	Faith Hero
April 17	Do You Believe in the Resurrection?	11:1-2	Jesus
April 24	Do You Believe That God Created Everything?	11:3	You
May 1	Do You Believe in the Rapture?	11:4-6	Enoch
May 8	Do You Believe in Noah and the Flood?	11:7	Noah
May 15	Do You Believe in Miracles?	11:8-16	Sarah
May 22	Do You Believe in Surrendering to God?	11:17-19	Abraham
May 29	Do You Believe God Holds Your Future?	11:20-22	Patriarchs
June 5	Do You Believe God is More Important Than Money?	11:23-27	Moses
June 12	Do You Believe in Divine Intervention?	11:28-29	Moses
June 19	Do You Believe God Can Use Sinful People?	11:30-31	Rahab
June 26	Do You Believe That You Have Enough Faith?	11:32-40	Daniel
More GF messages can be found at <a href="http://WhatIsGrace.org/Watch">WhatIsGrace.org/Watch</a>			

### Bold Examples from the Patriarchs on How to Trust God with Your Future (Hebrews 11:20-22)

#### 1. The Example of Joseph: Trust God with your future by claiming \_\_\_\_\_ by faith (v.22)

- **Genesis 50:24-26** – *Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die. But God will surely come to your aid and take you up out of this land to the land He promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." And Joseph made the sons of Israel swear an oath and said, "God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up from this place." So Joseph died at the age of a hundred and ten. And after they embalmed him, he was placed in a coffin in Egypt.*
- Why did the writer of Hebrews (inspired by the Holy Spirit) choose this act of faith to commend Joseph for in the Bible's Hall of Faith? Why not...
- Perhaps because it is the only faith act of Joseph that he did not see fulfilled while he was still alive (Hebrews 11:13).
- Myron Head: "Over the next 400 years as the people of Israel became slaves to the Egyptians, it must have given them great hope to see the coffin box with Joseph's bones which served as a reminder of God's promise that He would deliver them from slavery and take them back to the Promised Land."
- Joseph was believing (by faith) God's promise to his great granddaddy Abraham 286 years earlier in Genesis 15:13-16.

- **Genesis 15:13-16** – *Then the Lord said to Abram, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. You, however, will go to your fathers in peace and be buried at a good old age. In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here...."*
- **2 Peter 1:4** – *God has given us His very great and precious promises.*
- What "very great and precious promises" might Peter have been clinging to in his final days before his martyrdom?
  - Psalm 23:4
  - John 10:25-26
- Some precious and great promises to cling to

SOME VERY GREAT AND PRECIOUS PROMISES		
Strength Psalm 18:32; Isaiah 40:31	Guidance John 16:13	Help Isaiah 41:10-14
Instruction Psalm 32:8; John 14:26	Wisdom Prov 2:6-8; James 1:5	Heaven John 14:1-3; 2 Peter 3:13
The Holy Spirit Acts 2:33; Eph. 1:13	Joy Psalm 132:16; Gal. 5:22	Spiritual Life Romans 8:9-13
Resurrection Life John 11:25	Sufficient Grace 2 Corinth 12:9	Eternal Rewards 1 Tim 4:8; James 1:12
Answered Prayer 1 John 5:14-15	Financial Provision Philippians 4:19	Forgiveness 1 John 1:9
Return of a Prodigal Prov. 22:6; Luke 15:17	He Will Finish His Work Philippians 1:6	Healing Isaiah 53:5
Reaching the Nations Matt. 24:14; 28:18-20	Marriage Oneness Genesis 2:24-25	I Can Do All Things Philippians 4:13

- Application #1 – Like Joseph and Peter, I am going to live a life of faith through knowing and believing God's promises by...

#### 2. The Examples of Isaac and Jacob: Trust God with the future by invoking \_\_\_\_\_ on others by faith (vv.20-21)

- This is the only time in the Bible's Hall of Faith that the same act of faith is repeated twice – namely, the giving of a blessing. It must be really important to be mentioned twice!
  - Isaac blesses Jacob and Esau in Genesis 27
  - Jacob blesses his two grandsons in Genesis 48
- Nelson's Bible Dictionary: "BLESS – The act of declaring, or wishing, God's favor and goodness upon others. The blessing is not only the good effect of words; it also has the power to bring them to pass."
- John Ortberg: "Blessing is the projection of good into the life of another."

- Tony Evans: “Parents, our job is to leave a spiritual legacy for our children. To pass on a spiritual heritage. In the same way that you leave your children your physical assets through a physical will, you leave your children a spiritual legacy through your spiritual will. But you cannot pass on what you do not personally possess.”
- Application #2 – By faith I am going to tap into the power of the blessing by...
- **HOW TO GIVE THE BLESSING TO SOMEONE:**
  - (1) Lay hands on the person you are blessing (Genesis 48:13-14)
  - (2) Speak words of blessing and declare a Godly future over them (Genesis 48:15-16,20)
    - Numbers 6:24-26 – The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.*
    - May the Lord...** (speak/pray the positive things God puts in your mind and heart for that person)
  - (3) Believe that it will be so (Hebrews 11:21).
- Application #3 – I have a dream of us being a congregation of people who bless others and the Lord as a lifestyle. What could happen if we regularly blessed people in our family, our friend circle, our school, our workplace, our neighborhood, our church, and in the nations?
- Note: There is a subtle reminder in Hebrews 11:21 of Jacob’s displaced hip when it says that Jacob bowed over the head of his staff. Jacob had wrestled with God in Genesis 32:24-32 and came away with a displaced hip. From that day forward, Jacob walked with a limp that forever reminded him of his encounter with God on the banks of the Jabbok River.
- Application #4 – Lord, how do You want to use my scars and weaknesses to minister to others? With Your grace and help and power, I choose not to hide my limp, but to let it remind me of my encounter with You and to share it with others for their encouragement.
- Rick Warren: “If all people see are your strengths, they get discouraged and think, ‘Well, good for her, but I’ll never be able to do that.’ But when they see God using you in spite of your weaknesses, it encourages them to think, ‘Maybe God can use me!’ Our strengths create competition, but our weaknesses create community. Other people are going to find healing in your wounds. Your greatest life messages and your most effective ministry will come out of your deepest hurts. The things you’re most embarrassed about, most ashamed of, and most reluctant to share are the very tools God can use most powerfully to heal others.”

**Sermon Series Application** – When my life is over, what do I want my faith epitaph to be?

**My “By Faith” Epitaph**

By faith...