

The Witness of Faith Series: Hebrews 11:13-19 – “Faith’s Roadmap for Pilgrims”

Intro: We’ve seen faith’s architecture in that God aims to deliver death and resurrection in Christ historically but also personally and corporately, as we are apprehended into the history of God’s redemption plan and begin to appropriate its benefits now in Christ as part of His body/church. What is the practical context in which God delivers death and resurrection in Christ? What does that journey look like or entail practically for believers?

- 1) The roadmap of faith entails a pilgrimage of faith, namely, an “already-but-not-yet” aspect to our redemption. Historically, the elders looked ahead at Christ’s redemption yet salvation was delivered to them by believing/trusting the promise. They had real benefits and participation in the promise to be fulfilled, however, they had to look ahead and wait in faith for it.
- 2) The NT church, including the Hebrews and us, look back to promise fulfilled and thus participate in the same reality as the elders; yet, there’s also a future aspect to our redemption that still awaits culmination. Hence, we must also, like the elders -although in a better position historically/covenantally- live by faith awaiting the redemption of our bodies/glorification.
- 3) Believers of all ages, however, are united in their pilgrimage of faith whose ultimate hope looks to Christ’s death and resurrection as the substance/object of their faith. Such a hope and substance of faith in them causes them to acquire a pilgrim’s perspective with its concomitant experience common to all. We are compelled and sustained by God’s promises in Christ and look forward to its culmination in glorious inheritance.
- 4) A ***pilgrim’s roadmap of faith*** could be summed up thus: ***promise/calling, suffering/testing, and inheritance/glory***. God delivers Christ’s death and resurrection to believers of all ages through gospel faith, being tested in suffering, for the magnification of God’s glorious inheritance.
- 5) Abraham’s test helps illuminate the roadmap of faith for pilgrims. a) God’s promise/calling creates Abraham, the pilgrim, b) sustains Abraham along his pilgrimage, and c) refines Abraham for the glorious inheritance. The pilgrimage provides the testing/suffering ground to amplify, magnify, and demonstrate the power of the gospel promise.
- 6) Abraham was strengthened in faith as God leads him through suffering/testing to further and more boldly depend on God’s promise to the point of being willing to sacrifice Isaac believing that God could raise him. Abraham in suffering/testing has the promise BLOWN UP/ZOOMED UP before him in such way that his faith delivers in the now the power of resurrection.
- 7) God’s roadmap of faith for believers like for Abraham aims to deliver in the now the power of Christ’s death and resurrection. It consists in creating, sustaining, and growing faith by the ever enlarged/magnified power of the Gospel Promise. Suffering in pilgrimage provides the testing and refining grounds for such to occur.
- 8) God’s roadmap of faith for believers daily puts to death the old man of unbelief, death, and corruption and makes alive the new man of faith, life, and holiness. As God delivers Christ to us in suffering/testing of life, we come to increasingly trust and love Him more. We are being transformed in the process through “tested” faith in the “magnified” promise unto “new” obedience in and through Christ.