

The Witness of Faith Series- Hebrews 11:20-22: "What's in a blessing?"

Intro: Everyone wants to be blessed, but what is in a blessing? What about the redemption story through the patriarchs teach us about blessing? How can we attain to blessing and pass it down like the patriarchs did?

- 1) Blessing necessitates a blessing – one who stands in a blessed position to be able to confer blessing to others. The patriarchs all stood in a blessed position by God's word of gospel promise and thus were able to bless others. We cannot bless ourselves; we need the blessing.
- 2) Blessing is created in and through the word of the blessing. God blessed the patriarchs speaking well of/to them in the word of gospel promise. The word of God's promise creates blessing by calling/naming/declaring blessing/blessed over them who are not in themselves.
- 3) Blessing by the word of God's gospel promise upsets natural, traditional, and logical arrangements such as: the barren give birth, the last are first, the weak overcome, the bound go free, the slave rule, the dead come alive, sinners get blessed.
- 4) Blessing by the word of God's gospel promise challenges the status quo of unbelief, curse, and corruption by the constant and magnified exposure/interaction with the promise in/through the testing of our faith. The promised blessing forged a new vision/identity in the patriarchs.
- 5) Blessing by the word of God's gospel promise creates a new future in the midst of the old - although one not readily and immediately apparent. The patriarchs all had their future affected and they themselves began to be changed in the light of the promised blessing.
- 6) Blessing by the word of God's gospel promise provides a grace type lesson in the patriarchal narratives that anticipates the theme of captivity and deliverance through a mediator. They reveal the corruptions of our flesh but the power of the gospel promise to overcome.
- 7) Blessing by the word of God's gospel promise in the patriarchs anticipates a kingdom type lesson in the blessings of land, prosperity, and dominion. This foreshadows the believer's inheritance in Christ as well as the covenant provisions that the mediator would fulfill for us.
- 8) Blessing by the word of God's gospel promise in the patriarchs highlights the faithfulness of God in keeping, preserving, and fulfilling His promises in spite of human frailty and failure. This is the blessing that we have received in Christ and now pass on to others in the gospel.