

The Witness of Faith Series- Hebrews 11:22-31: “The Identity of Faith”

Intro: God gave the elders/patriarchs and their descendants a new identity in keeping with the Gospel Promise. All believers in Christ come to share in this same new identity of faith. Let us discern God’s work in and through this new identity of faith in Christ:

- 1) An identity of union with a liberator which speaks deliverance and freedom through Christ as it did through Joseph and Moses for their family and people. The identity of freedom/deliverance constantly nourishes believers through the access of faith in worship by Christ’s victory. Deliverance through a liberator provides the promise/history/paradigm for God’s people.
- 2) An identity of hope in God’s promises which dispels fear through the joy of God’s redemptive purposes in Christ as Moses’s parents looked to God’s provision/plan over the evil king’s threats. The identity of hope in Christ enables believers to work through their fears with the boldness and optimism of God’s promises in Christ.
- 3) An identity of children/adoption that sets us apart from the world’s claims and hold on us through God’s love as Moses realized who He belonged to. An identity of children provides the defining/assuring grounds that unequivocally and decidedly settle believers on the side of God through a familial bond of adoption in Christ.
- 4) An identity of belonging/community/fellowship with God’s people that transcends other identities, groups, associations, belonging and identifications as Moses chose to live with. Our identity of children leads us to encounter many siblings/brethren with whom we can identify and share the same story, hopes, dreams, lives, and future. We’ve found the ultimate family.
- 5) An identity of heir/inheritance with Christ which sanctifies us from the flesh and world’s sinful pursuits, endeavors, goals, and pleasures as Moses kept his eyes on God’s calling and prize. Our anticipation of inheritance in Christ begins to dwarf the world’s prizes with the glories of the kingdom.
- 6) An identity of pilgrim/pilgrimage that enables us to live by faith and not by sight in the midst of suffering/trials as Israel went on pilgrimage to be tested before entering the promised land. As pilgrims our walk by faith in trials grows into the indispensable way of endurance/perseverance in the Christian life.
- 7) An identity of worshiper/priest through Christ’s atonement as the sacrificial lamb for our sins which provides reconciliation with the holy God who otherwise is a consuming fire and righteous avenger. In Christ we are set aside/consecrated/sanctified to meet with God in worship rather than be destroyed by His wrath.
- 8) An identity of Kingdom victory/advance that enables us to fulfill our witness conquering mission through the peace of the Gospel. Sinners will be reconciled into God’s commonwealth Kingdom advance as Rahab was. All obstacles to the advance of God’s kingdom fall to the sound/message of the Gospel as the walls of Jericho fell to the sound of the trumpets.