

Faith

Faith is a living thing. It is born, it grows, it can become ill, it struggles and (if it is the real thing) it is better for the fight. The “Faith of our Fathers” is a microcosm of faith’s life.

In Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob we see the various seasons of the faith life; from the gentle spring, to the scorching heat of summer, to the bleak leafless witness of a winter’s grip. The Spirit life is seen in the promise of love, in a pregnancy of hope, and in a persistence of faith. We see our own experience in the lives of the Patriarchs and can learn to both embrace God’s will as well as to brace for the coming of storms that are necessary to bring out the best and help us to change from what we are and become what we were meant to be.

Abraham- Is faith awakened. Abraham is faith taking up its bed and walking out of Ur into the dawn of a new day and a new life, following God. Abraham is a picture of faith that cannot be satisfied with cities made with hands, but spends its days searching for one whose builder and maker is God. Abraham is a picture of faith looking up. It is counting the stars when everyone else is looking for much

less in life than what life was meant to be. In Abraham we see the gift of faith in the form of a promise that is simply received and deposited into an eternal trust fund. Abraham is a picture of a faith that is virile.

Isaac is faith laughing out loud as it gives witness to the birth in an incredible newness of life. Isaac is faith that brings joy to an aged patriarch and is undeniable proof that God always keeps his promise. Isaac is faith that re-opens clogged wells and is a cup of cold water that refreshes and revives. Isaac is not only faith that laughs, but faith that is loved and loves. Isaac is faith that sacrifices itself, serves and worships. Isaac is faith on Moriah that yields itself to the hand of love and has a heart that loves God most. Isaac is faith that has been tested and tried within an inch of its life and rises up to call God blessed.

Jacob is faith struggling to become what life was meant to be. Jacob is faith that seems to have failed and fallen. Jacob is faith that must fall into the ground and die before it can bring forth fruit that remains. Jacob is faith in the fight, and faith in the furnace. Jacob is faith struggling with God. Jacob is faith broken down, the wheat stripped of its chaff, wrestling with adversaries stronger and larger than itself. Jacob is the faith that will not surrender, give up or give in until it is blessed. Jacob is a picture of faith with growing pains. Jacob is faith that comes home limping, never the same, and all the better for the day because of the anguish of the night. When we sing faith of our fathers, lets remember Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

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