

DO I HAVE ENOUGH FAITH TO LEAVE A LEGACY OF FAITH?

Willie A. Alvarenga

Isaac, Jacob and Joseph; their legacy of faith!

INTRODUCTION:

1. Thank you for the opportunity to come back and be part of this summer series!
 - a. I pray my contribution to this lesson will be of great spiritual value to you.
 - b. I truly love and appreciate my dear brother Christian and his lovely family! Thank you for the great work you are doing in this congregation.
 - c. I also want to thank the elders for allowing me to come back and preach God's Word to you!
2. **It is always a great blessing to preach God's Word and to talk about the subject of "Faith" because...**
 - a. "Without faith it is impossible to please God" (Heb. 11:6).
 - b. "Faith is what overcomes the world" (1 John 5:4).
3. My subject for tonight is, "Do I Have Enough Faith to Leave a Legacy of Faith?"
4. We will examine the following points of discussion:
 - a. What is legacy?
 - b. The Biblical exhortation to Christian influence.
 - c. The legacy of Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph (briefly)
 - d. Things we can do to leave a legacy of faith when we part from this world.
 - e. The blessings of leaving a legacy!
5. Please keep in mind (Luke 9:44; 8:18; James 1:22-25).

I. WHAT IS LEGACY?

1. Legacy is the process of making a *lasting impact* on others that endures beyond our lifetime.
2. **A personal legacy** reflects how a person is remembered and the enduring effects of their actions and character on future generations.
3. In other words, spiritual legacy refers to that positive contribution you will leave behind that will encourage others to follow God faithfully!
 - a. Students at BTSOP encouraged to leave a spiritual legacy through their writings!
4. In other words, will you be remembered as a person of faith who made a lasting contribution where God received the honor and glory He deserves?

II. THE MEANING OF FAITH IN THE BIBLICAL CONTEXT.

1. **The term "Faith" has multiple meanings:**
 - a. It can be a reference to the Word of God (Jude 3; Acts 13:7-12).
 - b. It can be a reference to our complete trust in God (Hebrews 11; Mark 5:28, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well" (v. 34), "Your faith has made you well").

- c. It can be a reference to our complete obedience to God (Hebrews 11; Romans 1:5; 16:26; Acts 16:30-34).
2. Failure to understand "**Biblical Faith**" leads to a total religious confusion in the world!
3. In this lesson, I will refer to faith as complete trust in God conjoined with obedience.

III. THE BIBLICAL EXHORTATION TO CHRISTIAN INFLUENCE.

1. We are to set a good example to others (Matthew 5:16; 1 Timothy 4:12).
2. We are to shine as lights in the world (Philippians 2:15; Matthew 5:14-16).
3. We are to be an example of holiness (1 Peter 1:15-16; Hebrews 12:14).
4. We are to be of honorable conduct before all men (1 Peter 2:12).
5. We are to be an example of integrity before others (Titus 2:7-8).
6. This kind of Christian behavior can help us to leave a legacy of faithfulness to God!

IV. THE HISTORICAL LEGACY OF FAITH OF ISAAC, JACOB AND JOSEPH (ROMANS 15:4).

There is only so much we can say about the lives of these men of God. Time would not permit us to discuss their stories in detail.

The Book of Hebrews mentions these names as man of faith!

1. Isaac:

- a. Son of Abraham and Sarah.
- b. He was the child of the promise
- c. A man of faith (Heb. 11:16-17).
- d. A man of submission to God's Will (Gen. 22 - Sacrifice). According to Josephus, Isaac was 25 years old when Abraham offered him as a sacrifice.
- e. A man of meditation on God's Word (Gen. 24:63)
- f. A man of patience (Gen. 24 - His marriage). *He patiently waited for his wife.*
- g. A loving man to his wife (Gen 24:67), "*He loved her*".
- h. A man of faithfulness (lived in a world of idol worship, but he chose to worship the true God).
- i. A man of prayer and devotion to God (Gen. 26:25), "*So he built an altar there and called on the name of the LORD, and he pitched his tent there; and there Isaac's servants dug a well.*" Also prayed for his wife who was barren (Gen. 25:21).

2. Jacob:

- a. A selfish man (would not give food to his brother Esau).
- b. A man of deceitful actions (deceived his father Isaac).
- c. A man who cheated Esau (Gen. 25:29-34).

- d. A man who deceived his father Isaac (Gen. 27:1-29).
- e. A man who was deceived (Gen. 29:15-30).
- f. A man of prayer (Gen. 32:9-12; 24-30).
- g. A man of patience and perseverance (Laban and Esau).
- h. A man of humility (bowed before his brother Esau). He was willing to be reconciled back to his brother!
- i. A man of faith (Heb. 11:21).
- j. A man willing to learn from his mistakes!

3. Joseph:

- a. Son of Jacob.
 - b. A man of faith (Heb. 11:22).
 - c. A man who suffered a lot, but never gave up.
 - d. A man who always trusted God!
 - e. A man of moral character and faithfulness and who resisted temptation (Gen. 39:1-9).
 - f. A man of great wisdom, and brotherly love (Gen. 43:20; 45:8, 14, 23; 47:7).
4. As we can observe, these faithful men of God left us a lasting legacy that continues to encourage us to be loyal to our Creator!
 5. They were human beings just like you and I. They made a lot of mistakes but also did great good. Their lives are there to give us an example of what to do and what not to do (Rom. 15:4).

V. THINGS WE CAN DO TO LEAVE A LEGACY OF FAITH WHEN THE TIME OF OUR DEPARTURE COMES.

Please keep in mind that the kind of legacy we want to leave is the legacy of faith that will encourage others to give God the honor and glory He deserves!

1. Allow others to see our total trust in God (Prov. 3:5-6; Isa. 26:3).
2. Allow others to see our total obedience to God (James 1:22-25; 1 John 5:3).
3. Allow others to see our true and genuine love for God (Mark 12:30; John 14:15).
4. Allow others to see our total commitment to our faithfulness to God (Phil. 1:21; Gal. 2:20).
 - a. Even though we live in a world of sin, we must love God above all! (1 John 2:15-17; James 4:4; James 1:27; Rom. 12:1-2; Mark 12:30).
5. Allow others to see how we trust in the providence of God (Phil. 4:19; Heb. 13:5).
6. Allow others to see our heart of forgiveness and willingness to be reconciled back to those who have done wrong to us (Eph. 4:32).
7. Allow others to see our life of prayer (1 Thess. 5:17).
8. Allow others to see our genuine contribution to the work of the Lord (1 Cor. 15:58; 1 Cor. 15:10).
 - a. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph were part of the eternal purpose of God.

- b. We, too, are members of the church and part of the eternal purpose of God (Eph. 3:10; 1 Pet. 1:18-20).
 - c. Let us support the work of the church, God's eternal purpose!
 9. Allow others to see our perseverance during difficulties (2 Tim. 3:12; Phil. 1:29; Acts 14:22; James 1:2-3; Jesus, Paul, Joseph, etc. as great examples of perseverance).
 10. Allow others to see how we promote unity among believers (Eph. 4:1-6; John 17; 1 Cor. 1:10).
 11. Allow others to see our genuine love for the Scriptures (Psalm 119:97; 2 Pet. 3:18).
 12. Allow others to see our faithful example to our physical as well as spiritual family in Christ (Matt. 5:16).
 - a. The examples of Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph are there for our learning.
 - b. Let us be remembered as people of God who loved Him and did His will.
 13. Think deeply in ways in which you can leave a lasting legacy that will encourage others to glorify God!

VI. THE BLESSINGS OF LEAVING A LEGACY OF FAITH.

1. We will encourage others to live faithfully in Christ.
2. We will be a blessing to the work of the church.
3. We will encourage others to become victorious over the world.
4. We will encourage others to be diligent students of the Word.
5. We will encourage others to love God with every fiber of our being.
6. We will encourage others to promote unity in the church.
7. We will encourage others to make it to heaven!

CONCLUSION:

1. May God help us to work hard in leaving a legacy of faith which will encourage others to give God the honor and glory He deserves.
2. We have all we need to accomplish this! (2 Pet. 1:3; 2 Tim. 3:17).

Willie A. Alvarenga
P.O. BOX 210667
Bedford, TX 76095
(817) 681 4543; 268 3222
Email: btsop2004@gmail.com
www.btsop.org
www.backtobibleknowledge.com
www.regresandoalabiblia.com
www.btidc.org
www.laverdadenamor.com
www.alvarengapublications.com