

Heirs of Faith

Genesis 22:1-14; Galatians 3:6-9, 26-29

February 24, 2019

This sermon is not going to follow the outline I first envisioned preaching on the story of Abraham and Isaac. It will not focus, as it might have, on the example of Abraham's faith as an ideal which we should all strive for.

- We can't will ourselves to better faith
- Abraham's faith is unusual. It is given to him by special revelation.
- Paul's teaching in Galatians about the faith of Abraham points in another direction.

Galatians 3:6-9

Consider Abraham: "He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." Understand then, that those who believe are *children of Abraham*. The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to *Abraham, the man of faith*.

26-29

You are sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then *you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise*.

- Abraham is the "man of faith"
- We are children of Abraham, Abraham's seed
- We are heirs of the promise made to Abraham

The person we relate to in this story is not Abraham, but Isaac; all us are children of Abraham and thus heirs.

The development of Isaac's faith:

- Trust in his father's love for him
- Trust in his father's faith in God
- Trust in God

Isaac, as the first-born son, is heir of the estate of Abraham. Isaac as the child of Abraham and we as children of Abraham are:

- Heirs of the blessing (blessed to be a blessing)
- Heirs of the promise (a great and abundant nation, the kingdom of God)
- Heirs of Abraham's faith

Name one or more people from your past who you consider people of faith and whose faith helped to strengthen or develop your faith. Who are the fathers and mothers, sisters and brothers of your faith? Of whose faith are you an heir?

Who have you walked beside when their faith was being tested?

Who here at El Estero do you trust and whose faith in God you can trust to strengthen your faith?

Bonus question: How might an increase in the faith of the members of El Estero change the life of our congregation?