

## Faith in Action Part 2

**“20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.”  
(Hebrews 11:20 KJV)**

Faith should be accompanied by actions, and the actions should be accompanied by obedient acts that go along the Word of God. We know that Isaac blessed his twin sons Esau and Jacob. Esau was the elder son and he should receive the inheritance or the blessing that his birth right allowed him to take. But we know also that Rebekah helped Jacob to take the blessing of Esau as we can read here:

*“1 And it came to pass, that when Isaac was old, and his eyes were dim, so that he could not see, he called Esau his eldest son, and said unto him, My son: and he said unto him, Behold, here am I. 2 And he said, Behold now, I am old, I know not the day of my death: 3 Now therefore take, I pray thee, thy weapons, thy quiver and thy bow, and go out to the field, and take me some venison; 4 And make me savoury meat, such as I love, and bring it to me, that I may eat; that my soul may bless thee before I die. 5 And Rebekah heard when Isaac spake to Esau his son. And Esau went to the field to hunt for venison, and to bring it. 6 And Rebekah spake unto Jacob her son, saying, Behold, I heard thy father speak unto Esau thy brother, saying, 7 Bring me venison, and make me savoury meat, that I may eat, and bless thee before the LORD before my death. 8 Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to that which I command thee. 9 Go now to the flock, and fetch me from thence two good kids of the goats; and I will make them savoury meat for thy father, such as he loveth: 10 And thou shalt bring it to thy father, that he may eat, and that he may bless thee before his death. 11 And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, Behold, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth man: 12 My father peradventure will feel me, and I shall seem to him as a deceiver; and I shall bring a curse upon me, and not a blessing. 13 And his mother said unto him, Upon me be thy curse, my son: only obey my voice, and go fetch me them. 14 And he went, and fetched, and brought them to his mother: and his mother made savoury meat, such as his father loved. 15 And Rebekah took goodly raiment of her eldest son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them upon Jacob her younger son: 16 And she put the skins of the kids of the goats upon his hands, and upon the smooth of his neck: 17 And she gave the savoury meat and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob. 18 And he came unto his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I; who art thou, my son? 19 And Jacob said unto his father, I am Esau thy first born; I have done according as thou badest me: arise, I pray thee, sit and eat of my venison, that thy soul may bless me. 20 And Isaac said unto his son, How is it that thou hast found it so quickly, my son? And he said, Because the LORD thy God brought it to me. 21 And Isaac said unto Jacob, Come near, I pray thee, that I may feel thee, my son, whether thou be my very son Esau or not. 22 And Jacob went near unto Isaac his father; and he felt him, and said, The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau. 23 And he discerned him not, because his hands were hairy, as his brother Esau's hands: so he blessed him. 24 And he said, Art thou my very son Esau? And he said, I am. 25 And he said, Bring it near to me, and I will eat of my son's venison, that my soul may bless thee. And he brought it near to him, and he did eat: and he brought him wine and he drank. 26 And his father Isaac said unto him, Come near now, and kiss me, my son. 27 And he came near, and kissed him: and he smelled the smell of his raiment, and blessed him, and said, See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field which the LORD hath blessed: 28 Therefore God give thee of the dew of*

*heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine: 29 Let people serve thee, and nations bow down to thee: be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother's sons bow down to thee: cursed be every one that curseth thee, and blessed be he that blesseth thee. 30 And it came to pass, as soon as Isaac had made an end of blessing Jacob, and Jacob was yet scarce gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting. 31 And he also had made savoury meat, and brought it unto his father, and said unto his father, Let my father arise, and eat of his son's venison, that thy soul may bless me. 32 And Isaac his father said unto him, Who art thou? And he said, I am thy son, thy firstborn Esau. 33 And Isaac trembled very exceedingly, and said, Who? where is he that hath taken venison, and brought it me, and I have eaten of all before thou camest, and have blessed him? yea, and he shall be blessed. 34 And when Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with a great and exceeding bitter cry, and said unto his father, Bless me, even me also, O my father. 35 And he said, Thy brother came with subtilty, and hath taken away thy blessing. 36 And he said, Is not he rightly named Jacob? for he hath supplanted me these two times: he took away my birthright; and, behold, now he hath taken away my blessing. And he said, Hast thou not reserved a blessing for me? 37 And Isaac answered and said unto Esau, Behold, I have made him thy lord, and all his brethren have I given to him for servants; and with corn and wine have I sustained him: and what shall I do now unto thee, my son? 38 And Esau said unto his father, Hast thou but one blessing, my father? bless me, even me also, O my father. And Esau lifted up his voice, and wept. 39 And Isaac his father answered and said unto him, Behold, thy dwelling shall be the fatness of the earth, and of the dew of heaven from above; 40 And by thy sword shalt thou live, and shalt serve thy brother; and it shall come to pass when thou shalt have the dominion, that thou shalt break his yoke from off thy neck.” (Genesis 27:1-40 KJV)* From what we read we can understand clearly that Isaac had no intention to bless Jacob and to give him the blessing of Esau but when such happened he submitted himself to God and to His will when he came to know that Jacob came and took away Esau's blessing. Isaac affirmed to Esau that Jacob will be blessed indeed, **“33 And Isaac trembled very exceedingly, and said, Who? where is he that hath taken venison, and brought it me, and I have eaten of all before thou camest, and have blessed him? yea, and he shall be blessed.” (Genesis 27:33 KJV)** Isaac pronounce also to Esau the judgment and the will of God for his life and for his brother, Jacob, **“37 And Isaac answered and said unto Esau, Behold, I have made him thy lord, and all his brethren have I given to him for servants; and with corn and wine have I sustained him: and what shall I do now unto thee, my son?” (Genesis 27:37 KJV)**

Why God allowed this to happen, that Jacob took the blessing of Esau? If we know the reason then we can understand why Isaac agreed and approved of what God did. The Lord took the blessing of Esau and gave to Jacob because Esau was disobedient to the command of God when he chose to marry women God forbade to take as wives as we can read in the following Scriptures:

**1. “34 And Esau was forty years old when he took to wife Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Bashemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite: 35 Which were a grief of mind unto Isaac and to Rebekah.” (Genesis 26:34-35 KJV)**

**2. “6 When Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob, and sent him away to Padanaram, to take him a wife from thence; and that as he blessed him he gave him a charge, saying, Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan; 7 And that Jacob obeyed his father and his**

*mother, and was gone to Padanaram; 8 And Esau seeing that the daughters of Canaan pleased not Isaac his father; 9 Then went Esau unto Ishmael, and took unto the wives which he had Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael Abraham's son, the sister of Nebajoth, to be his wife.” (Genesis 28:6-9 KJV)* Isaac stood with God when God allowed the blessings to go to Esau because of his sins as we explained here in marrying non believers, also because of his lack of the fear of God, as well as his sexual immoralities as we read here, *“16 Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. 17 For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.” (Hebrews 12:16-17)* In addition to all that his non willingness to repent of his sins; yes he cried to his father but he did not repent because he was after the blessing only as we can read here, *“38 And Esau said unto his father, Hast thou but one blessing, my father? bless me, even me also, O my father. And Esau lifted up his voice, and wept.” (Genesis 27:38 KJV)* In what Isaac pronounced on Esau we can see also the blessing of God on him as we can read here, *“39 And Isaac his father answered and said unto him, Behold, thy dwelling shall be the fatness of the earth, and of the dew of heaven from above;” (Genesis 27:39 KJV)* As well as the hardship that he placed on him, *“40 And by thy sword shalt thou live, and shalt serve thy brother; and it shall come to pass when thou shalt have the dominion, that thou shalt break his yoke from off thy neck.” (Genesis 27:40 KJV)* Here God told him clearly that he shall serve his brother and that what had happened ultimately when the Edomites subdued under Israel at the time of David.

But how about what we read in verse 37 and the meaning of what Isaac said to Esau, *“Behold, I have made him thy lord, and all his brethren have I given to him for servants”?* **This is in pertain to the Messiah who will descend from Jacob, and he will be the Lord not only over Esau but also over Jacob, and over all of us, and not only Esau but Jacob and all of us we are to serve Him and be His servants.** So here it is made clearly if Esau would repent he would be receiving the blessings of God, but if not then the blessings are far away from him. That was why Isaac did not react when things went on such a way because he was aware that God is a God of justice and His blessing will flow and will reach those who repent and commit their lives and their ways to Him and to serve Him.

**Faith is obedience to God and abiding with His will and purpose.** Now we will move to another episode of faith in action: *“21 By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff.” (Hebrews 11:21 KJV)*

Jacob abided with the will of God when he blessed Joseph’s sons Ephraim and Manasseh. This took place as the following: Reuben was Jacob’s first son, but he did something disgraceful that excluded him from taking the double share, the privilege of the first born son. This is what he did: *“22 And it came to pass, when Israel dwelt in that land, that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine: and Israel heard it. Now the sons of Jacob were twelve:” (Genesis 35:22 KJV)* Therefore Reuben was excluded from taking the privilege of the first born son, *“3 Reuben, thou art my firstborn, my might, and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power: 4 Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel; because thou wentest up to thy father's bed; then defiledst thou it: he went up to my couch.” (Genesis 49:3-4)* So Reuben was excluded and marked that he will be unstable as water and will not excel because of the sin that he did.

Joseph was chosen to have the double share of the blessing in obedience to what God had revealed in the past and fulfilled later on in Joseph’s life: *“5 And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more. 6 And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed: 7 For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf. 8 And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words. 9 And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. 10 And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth? 11 And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.” (Genesis 37:5-11 KJV)* So Jacob put these dreams of Joseph in his mind. And when it came finally true that Joseph was in Egypt and was made second to Pharaoh and finally that he became truly over the rest of his brothers in caring for them and providing for them and for his father Jacob, then Jacob realized the dreams of Joseph were from God, and since Joseph obeyed God and did and provided for all of them therefore Jacob consented and abided with God’s will to give the double portion of the firstborn to Joseph.

Therefore for this reason Jacob needed to adopt the two sons of Joseph as his sons and to bless both of them as Jacob’s own sons in order to pass the double share to Joseph as he stated that he will give him one portion above his brothers as you can read here: *“1 And it came to pass after these things, that one told Joseph, Behold, thy father is sick: and he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. 2 And one told Jacob, and said, Behold, thy son Joseph cometh unto thee: and Israel strengthened himself, and sat upon the bed. 3 And Jacob said unto Joseph, God Almighty appeared unto me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and blessed me, 4 And said unto me, Behold, I will make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, and I will make of thee a multitude of people; and will give this land to thy seed after thee for an everlasting possession. 5 And now thy two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, which were born unto thee in the land of Egypt before I came unto thee into Egypt, are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine. 6 And thy issue, which thou begetteth after them, shall be thine, and shall be called after the name of their brethren in their inheritance. 7 And as for me, when I came from Padan, Rachel died by me in the land of Canaan in the way, when yet there was but a little way to come unto Ephrath: and I buried her there in the way of Ephrath; the same is Bethlehem. 8 And Israel beheld Joseph's sons, and said, Who are these? 9 And Joseph said unto his father, They are my sons, whom God hath given me in this place. And he said, Bring them, I pray thee, unto me, and I will bless them. 10 Now the eyes of Israel were dim for age, so that he could not see. And he brought them near unto him; and he kissed them, and embraced them. 11 And Israel said unto Joseph, I had not thought to see thy face: and, lo, God hath shewed me also thy seed. 12 And Joseph brought them out from between his knees, and he bowed himself with his face to the earth. 13 And Joseph took them both, Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near unto him. 14 And Israel stretched out his right hand, and laid it upon Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand upon Manasseh's head, guiding his hands wittingly; for Manasseh was the firstborn. 15 And he blessed Joseph, and said, God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac did walk, the God which fed me all my life long unto this day, 16 The Angel which redeemed me from all*



*evil, bless the lads; and let my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth. 17 And when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand upon the head of Ephraim, it displeased him: and he held up his father's hand, to remove it from Ephraim's head unto Manasseh's head. 18 And Joseph said unto his father, Not so, my father: for this is the firstborn; put thy right hand upon his head. 19 And his father refused, and said, I know it, my son, I know it: he also shall become a people, and he also shall be great: but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations. 20 And he blessed them that day, saying, In thee shall Israel bless, saying, God make thee as Ephraim and as Manasseh: and he set Ephraim before Manasseh. 21 And Israel said unto Joseph, Behold, I die: but God shall be with you, and bring you again unto the land of your fathers. 22 Moreover I have given to thee one portion above thy brethren, which I took out of the hand of the Amorite with my sword and with my bow.” (Genesis 48:1-22 KJV)*

Finally Jacob blessed Joseph before he death when he blessed all his sons, saying the following about Joseph, *“22 Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall: 23 The archers have sorely grieved him, and shot at him, and hated him: 24 But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; (from thence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel:) 25 Even by the God of thy father, who shall help thee; and by the Almighty, who shall bless thee with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lieth under, blessings of the breasts, and of the womb: 26 The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren.” (Genesis 49:22-26 KJV)*

Jacob lived in Egypt a life of faith in obedience to God and His commands and that is the way to worship God till the time we will be taken to Heaven: *“28 And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years: so the whole age of Jacob was an hundred forty and seven years. 29 And the time drew nigh that Israel must die: and he called his son Joseph, and said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh, and deal kindly and truly with me; bury me not, I pray thee, in Egypt: 30 But I will lie with my fathers, and thou shalt carry me out of Egypt, and bury me in their buryingplace. And he said, I will do as thou hast said. 31 And he said, Swear unto me. And he sware unto him. And Israel bowed himself upon the bed's head. ” (Genesis 47:28-31 KJV)* Jacob was looking forward to be buried in the promised land that God had promised to give him and his descendents. He refused to be buried in Egypt and he wanted to be sure to be buried there, therefore he lived his life in Egypt in worship and in obedience to God. **The same thing for us, we live and labor in our lives working out our salvation in doing and living all what God wants us to live and do and that is how we worship the Living God.**

***My dear and beloved:*** \* Therefore faith teaches us to abide with God’s Word and to live in holiness so that we will be eligible for His abundant blessings and eternal life. Therefore if you are in sin and live in disobedience to God, then you need to repent so that His blessings, love and care shall reach you. Heed the message, be earnest, repent, respond to the call of God in your life and work out your salvation. \* Also be willing to stand with God to implement His will in your life, in the life of your family and children, and in the ministry that God had placed you in.

Let us pray ...

***My Prayer:*** Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for the eternal life that we receive through faith in Jesus and thank you for all the material and spiritual blessings that we received from you and your calling to us to serve you.

*Repent and renounce all your sins. Repent of your stubbornness and delay obedience. Repent of your lack of faith and your lack of trust in God. Repent of your doing your own will and plan. Repent of your lack of the fear of God in your life. Repent of your envy, jealousy, lust, immoralities and the rest of your worldliness and the works of the flesh in your life. Repent of your marriage with non believer. Repent of your non willingness to suffer for Christ and go along His will and the plan that He has for you. Repent of your non willingness to discipline your children and those workers in your ministry. Repent of your lack of prayers and lack of reading God’s Word in the Bible. Repent of your yoke with the non believers, with many friends, and with the Media, News and games. Lord I repent and renounce the following sins*

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*Lord I commit myself to abide with your Word and to live in holiness and to stand with you in proclaiming and pronouncing your blessings to the righteous and your judgment on the wicked. Lord I commit myself to live a life for you, to be inspired by your Word and led by the Holy Spirit to achieve the things that you want me to do in this life. Lord until you come and take me, give me strength, good health, sustain me, protect me and provide for me to continue to do your will, and to continue to serve you, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*

*Lord, thank you for all my Brothers and Sisters who repented from their sins and committed their lives to stand with you in implementing your Word and your will in their lives and in the lives of their families and ministries. Lord protect them and provide all their needs. Lord bless them and fulfill your Word in their lives and set them good examples to others to follow you.*

*Lord lead us as your church and guide us with your Holy Spirit to continue to proclaim your Word and your will to the people. Lord we commit ourselves to stand with you in implementing your will in the lives of our families, and in the lives of the members and the workers of the church. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the Spiritual gifts that we need in our lives to go on and evangelize, and make disciples and train workers to go and plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord we pray for more people to get water baptized and receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord prepare us for your coming to go with you when you come to take us. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, ‘Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.’ Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.*

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