

A Generous Life Part 3: Faith For More

*“Command those who are rich in the things of this life not to be proud, but to place their hope, not in such an uncertain thing as riches, but in God, who generously gives us everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share with others. **In this way they will store up for themselves a treasure which will be a solid foundation for the future.** And then they will be able to win the life which is true life.” 1 Timothy 6:17-19 GNT*

*“Faith **shows the reality** of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see. Through their faith, the people in days of old earned a good reputation.” Hebrews 11:1-2 NLT*

*“It was by faith that **Abraham** offered Isaac as a sacrifice when God was testing him. Abraham, who had received God’s promises, was ready to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, even though God had told him, “Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted.” Abraham reasoned that if Isaac died, God was able to bring him back to life again. And in a sense, Abraham did receive his son back from the dead. It was by faith that **Isaac** promised blessings for the future to his sons, Jacob and Esau. It was by faith that **Jacob**, when he was old and dying, blessed each of Joseph’s sons and bowed in worship as he leaned on his staff. It was by faith that **Joseph**, when he was about to die, said confidently that the people of Israel would leave Egypt. He even commanded them to take his bones with them when they left. It was by faith that **Moses’ parents** hid him for three months when he was born. They saw that God had given them an unusual child, and they were not afraid to disobey the king’s command. It was by faith that **Moses**, when he grew up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. He chose to share the oppression of God’s people instead of enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin. He thought it was better to suffer for the sake of Christ than to own the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to his great reward. It was by faith that Moses left the land of Egypt, not fearing the king’s anger. He kept right on going because he kept his eyes on the one who is invisible. It was by faith that Moses commanded the people of Israel to keep the Passover and to sprinkle blood on the doorposts so that the angel of death would not kill their firstborn sons. It was by faith that the **people** of Israel went right through the Red Sea as though they were on dry ground. But when the Egyptians tried to follow, they were all drowned. It was by faith that the people of Israel marched around Jericho for seven days, and the walls came crashing down.” Hebrews 11:17-30 NLT*

1. Abraham was willing to sacrifice.

*“And don’t forget to **do good** and to **share** with those in need. These are the **sacrifices that please God.**” Hebrews 13:16 NLT*

2. Isaac prayed and passed on a generational blessing.

*“This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, **if we ask** anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in **whatever we ask**, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.” 1 John 5:14-15 NASB1995*

*“At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he **gave generously** to those in need and **prayed to God***

regularly. One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, "Cornelius!" Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, Lord?" he asked. The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a **memorial** offering before God." Acts 10:1-4 NIV

3. Jacob worshipped leaning on God.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways **acknowledge Him**, And He will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6 NASB1995

4. Joseph remembered God's faithfulness.

"Let each **generation** tell its children of your mighty acts; let them proclaim your power. I will meditate on your majestic, glorious splendor and your wonderful miracles. Your awe-inspiring deeds will be on every tongue; I will proclaim your greatness. Everyone will **share the story** of your wonderful goodness; they will sing with joy about your righteousness." Psalms 145:4-7 NLT

5. Moses parents stood for justice.

"Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to **stand your ground**, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then..." Ephesians 6:13-14 NIV

6. Moses rejected the world's offer.

"Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever." 1 John 2:15-17 NLT

7. The people of God mobilized.

"When the princes in Israel **take the lead**, when the people **willingly offer themselves**— praise the Lord!" Judges 5:2 NIV

"All these people died still believing what God had promised them. They did not receive what was promised, but they **saw it all from a distance** and welcomed it. They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth. Obviously people who say such things are **looking forward** to a country they can call their own. If they had longed for the country they came from, they could have gone back. But they were **looking for a better place**, a heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them." Hebrews 11:13-16 NLT