

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



Can you imagine not having any written Word of God and still living by faith? It gives me great admiration for the early saints who “*by faith*” still went against all human reason to trust

and obey God! Isaac saw the future “*by faith*” for he believed God and trusted His promises. He conferred God’s blessings upon his sons; fully persuaded of God’s Word “*concerning things to come!*” We have a written record and a great cloud of witnesses surrounding our faith and yet we still doubt God! I’m sure there were accounts of earlier saints like Noah, Enoch, and Adam, but we have no preserved record of their testimonies or words save a few brief mentions in the canon of Scripture. We know these accounts were passed on, because they were known by the Apostles. Paul wrote about them more than the other Apostles. He was a stellar student of Scripture before he was saved, and writes of himself, “*An Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the Law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the Church; touching the righteousness which is in the Law, blameless.*” He was blameless before the Law, but still did not know God. We do not all have a Damascus road experience where Paul, then Saul, heard the Voice of Christ, but we can “*hear*” God through His written Word marching through thought as we meditate and study. It was only after hearing God that faith came to Paul and he declares, concerning his blamelessness before the Law, “*But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, and be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the Law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings.*” You cannot truly know Christ until you have “*suffered for righteousness’ sake.*” Paul knew the “*fellowship of [Christ’s] sufferings.*” Have you suffered for Christ? Not all of Christ’s suffering was physical. Do you trust God enough to confidently proclaim the future revealed in His Word? Can you firmly warn the wicked in spite of his jeering and persecution? Can you faithfully encourage and exhort the brethren to remain steadfast? If you do not “*hear*” God, you cannot! Great peril awaits all unbelievers. Have you tarried so long in “Sodom” that you will have to flee with nothing but your skin on Judgment Day?

The evil day doth not delay,  
Repent you now, while you still may,  
For those that miss Last Trumpet’s call,  
Perdition’s blackness will befall! -CGP

Is your faith secure “*concerning things to come?*” Do you “*know whom you have believed?*” Is your faith founded unshakably upon “*hearing*” God’s Word? Does the affront of the world cause you to shrink from your faith? It isn’t necessarily persecution that destroys faith. Vance Havner said, “Popularity ruined more preachers than persecution ever did!” Is popularity destroying your faith? What do you KNOW about “*things to come?*”

*“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage (pursuit of sinful pleasure).” Galatians 5:1 KJV*