

Second Hand Preacher
Feast of the Holy Family
December 28, 2014
Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Sometimes knowing about our relatives can help us as we grow older. For instance, my Mom's Dad lost most of his hair. I once heard that our hair patterns often come from our maternal grandfathers so as my forehead starts to grow higher, I start to wonder. Faith is often passed down in families. I know that some of my strong beliefs are based in part by the very alive faith of my grandmothers. They were models to me of both public and private faith. They were both active in their perspective churches and that was a strong influence on me.

Because of the way some people date the letter to the Hebrews, it is fairly unlikely that St. Paul is the author of this letter. This is still seen as a very important letter written by someone very familiar with Paul's work; someone who was a disciple of his that Paul probably would consider part of his family in faith.

This section of the letter relates family history. Many of the people who were like Paul were devout Jews who became Christian to help spread the Good News to the Gentiles. The Hebrew community this letter is written to, would have been very familiar with Abraham. The miracle birth of Isaac was recalled to support all miraculous births including Jesus'. The author is using this story to draw people to Christ by showing that the followers of Christ have a great faith tradition.

May this text help us realize just how important all of our past faith may be connected to our present faith. How Jesus, Abraham, and Paul still make an impact on our lives daily. May we be able to trust as Abraham did that God will provide. Whether it is our job to be a great patriarch or volunteer T-Ball coach, we need faith to live our lives to the fullest.