

Genesis: Back to Obedience
Faith in Times of Grief
Genesis 23:1-20

One of the most shocking facts of life is the brevity of life. No matter when death comes, it is always too soon, and no matter how prepared for it we are, we are never really prepared enough. Mortality is an ever-present reality in our world and has been ever since Genesis 4. It is helpful to remember that God doesn't just give us faith in order to live well. Faith also allows us to die and cope with the death of others well.

1. We mourn the loss of life in faith not anger.
2. We recognize by faith that we are just visitors here.
3. We handle death with the same integrity as life.

The power available to us through faith in the ongoing presence of the Holy Spirit enables us to lift a face radiant with life even in the midst of deepest sorrow, to be strong when others are weak, and to refuse to give way to panic and fear when the world around us is trembling and afraid. It all comes from the fact that like Abraham, we too are foreigners and visitors, pilgrims and strangers.