

Sunday, November 7, 2021
"The Gospel Lives of Jacob and Isaac"
Summary of The Prayer of Faith
Genesis 32:1-21
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Buoyed by the camp of angels, Jacob sets his face like flint toward Canaan. He began with a peaceful overture, sending messengers before him to Esau. But the bare facts report of the returning messengers left many questions for Jacob. All Jacob learned is the ominous number of four hundred men approaching with Esau in the lead. Four hundred was the standard size of a militia. Jacob's fear and distress were eminently reasonable. The last he had heard from Esau was that Esau was biding his time to kill Jacob (*cf.* 27:41). Now Esau was coming with a small army! Though he had been encouraged by the angelic vision, now he was panicking in fear. What to do? Initially, He developed a plan; but then he prayed. He prayed in faith (vv9-12). What does it mean to pray in faith? To help us understand this we also turned to the New Testament book of James 5:13-18, where we looked briefly at 'the prayer of faith.'

