

Hebrews 11:32-40 "By Faith"

(Overheads in Bold Print)

Introduction and Opening Prayer

"And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms(Joshua, David),_performed acts of righteousness(Josiah, Hezekiah), obtained promises (Abraham, Moses, David), shut the mouths of lions (Samson, David), quenched the power of fire,(Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego), escaped the edge of the sword(David, Elijah, Elisha), from weakness were made strong (Ehud, Gideon), became mighty in war (Samson, David, Jephthah) put foreign armies to flight. Women received back their dead by resurrection (I Kings 17); and others were tortured (Maccabean Revolt), not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection; and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment. They were stoned (Zechariah), they were sawn in two (Isaiah), they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword (Uriah, mass executions); they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated (men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground. And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect." Hebrews 11:32-40

Review –Pastor’s definition of Faith

- **FAITH IS CONFIDENT OBEDIENCE TO GOD’S WORD, IN SPITE OF CIRCUMSTANCE OR CONSEQUENCE**

Review of Mentioned Men of Faith-Encouragement of who God called and used, encourage you-to read thru Judges, -Study History of Church

- Barak-Judges 4 wouldn’t go without Deborah, but when told “Arise this is the day the Lord” By Faith Barak Went
- Jephthah-Judges 11:1 Valiant warrior, driven from home, son of harlot, not legitimate son. Called to lead war against sons of Ammon. Gave them a history lesson-Bible lesson- By Faith-Lead his nation to victory
- Samson -Judges 14:3 Get her for me, for she looks good to me; not of his people 14:4-Was of the Lord-Providence of God-Weakness for women was his demise-yet in the end, he knew where his true strength came from and destroyed the Philistines.

- Gideon-Judges 6:36-40, Faith? God-Too many 22000—300. Judges 7:15 heard interpretation of dream, Bowed in Worship (want to remember this) (First Thing) faith in God's Word "Arise for the Lord..."
- By Faith these and others kept---Eternal Perspective-
- **"So that they might obtain a better resurrection"**

Summarizes Hebrews 11:13-16 and applies to today's scripture

"All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. And indeed, if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them." Hebrews 11:13-16

Concluding verses

And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect." Heb. 11:39,40

Gained approval "by faith." Many promises fulfilled but had faith in ultimate fulfillment of eternal promises-Messiah!

Something Better for us

Coming of the promised Messiah.

- **"For the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth was realized through Christ" John 1:17**
- **"But now at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. Heb. 9:26**

Apart from us-would not be made perfect-Both Groups characterized by genuine faith-both perfected in Christ.

- ***"In the end he says a great thing. All these died before the final unfolding of God's promise, before the coming of God's Messiah into the world. It was as if God had so arranged things, that the full blaze of His glory and revelation should not be revealed until we and they can enjoy it together. The writer to the Hebrews is saying: "See the glory of God has come. But see what it cost to enable it to come! That is the faith which gave you your faith. What can you do but be true to a heritage and a tradition like that?" Barclay***

- ***“Though the Old Testament believers lived by faith, they were not privileged to witness on earth the fulfillment of the great promise of God. Nevertheless, they too participate in the benefits of Christ’s high priestly work, and along with new covenant saints, they are “made perfect.” Those of the old and new era together await the perfection that will appear only at the Second Coming.” R.C. Sproul***

Instruction to Hebrews-Join this heritage of faith. O.T Saints saved by faith looking forward to Messiah. We are saved by faith looking back at Messiah-Christ Jesus. All are made perfect by Christ “High Priestly Work.” “Full blaze of His Glory and revelation” God’s people will enjoy it together. All by Faith.

Practical Application from passage-Characters called by God, not forget as believers we also have been called. Called by Grace-Not Forget our Faith is gift of God, granted faith from God thanking Him for the ability to believe (mentor)

- **“For by grace you have been saved through faith and that not of yourselves, it is a gift of God” Eph.2:8**
- **“Faithful is He who calls you...” I Thess. 5:24**
- **“By His doing are you in Christ Jesus...” I Cor. 1:30**

Faith- (Time to exercise) Assurance of things hoped for, pleases God, must believe He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. Called to learn from these of the “Honor Roll of Faith”

FAITH IS CONFIDENT OBEDIENCE TO GOD’S WORD, IN SPITE OF CIRCUMSTANCE OR CONSEQUENCE

- **Faith is about pleasing God**
- **Faith in about believing in God**
- **Faith is about seeking God’s will**

Concluding chapter on faith. Many things in this passage that we may not ever do or ever have to do but there are some key elements in passage for us.

- **Performed Acts of Righteousness (verse 33)**
- **Obtained Promises (Verse 33)**
- **From weakness, be made strong (Verse 34)**
- **They were tempted (Verse 37)**

Performed Acts of Righteousness- (not merited) Are we exercising our faith in performing acts of righteousness? There are a lot of good things happening in our little church, Vivancos, personal, practical everyday living

- **“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.” Eph. 2 :10**

- **“For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.” Phil. 2:13**
- **“...to those called according to His purpose.” Romans 8:28**
- **“Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.” Col. 3:17**

Obtained Promises-Are we acquiring the promises of God, are we searching the Word of God and taking Him at His Word? Are we neglecting His treasures? This year’s theme of learning and knowing and sharing God’s Word. Every errant thought, attitude, doubt-God’s Word has a promise to ‘blow it away’

- **“The promises of God are to the believer an inexhaustible mine of wealth. Happy is it for him if he knows how to search out their secret veins, and enrich himself with their hidden treasures. They are to him an armory containing all manner of offensive and defensive weapons. Blessed is he who has learned to enter into the sacred arsenal, to put on the breastplate and the helmet, and to lay his hand to the spear and to the sword. They are to the believer a surgery (hospital, Doctor office) in which he will find all manner of restoratives and blessed elixirs; he shall find in them an ointment for every wound, a cordial for every faintness, and a remedy for every disease. Blessed is he who is well skilled in heavenly pharmacy and knows how to lay hold of the healing virtues of the promises of God...Happy is he who knows how to read them well and call them all his own...See, then my brothers and sisters, how necessary it is that you and I should know the heavenly art of by faith obtaining promises.” Charles Spurgeon**
- **“...He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.” 2 Peter 1:4**

From weakness were made strong-Paul learned this lesson through His thorn in the flesh, are we learning by faith to find our strength in God when we are at our weakest or during difficult times. Do we believe the truth of the scriptures? Are we letting circumstances or consequences rob us of the joy of Christ? Do you ever think...to draw you closer?

- **“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.” Eph. 6:10**
- **“I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.” Phil. 4:13**
- **“You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus” 2 Tim. 2:1**
- **“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those called according to His purpose.” Romans 8:28**

They were tempted-look where this is found in the list in the passage, it is wedged between “sawn in two”, and “were put to death.” Seems out of place, however, it speaks of those who were tempted to save their life by denying their faith, yes, they were tempted, and yet they

did not fail, and held fast their integrity. Personal conviction. Should we not “by faith” be overcoming our temptations. Does our obedience to God reflect our walk by faith with Christ? Are we striving for personal holiness? Was it not God that said, “To obey is better than sacrifice.” Didn’t Jesus say, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”

- **“You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin.” Heb. 12:4**
- **“We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ” 2 Cor. 10:5**

Closing this chapter on Faith. What will be said of our life? Because of Christ our names are written in the book of life? By faith, do you believe that? If not, is it now not time? But if a new chapter was written about our church, or each one of us, would we be mentioned in the “Hall of Faith” Would it be said of Oaks Bible church “By faith they ...

- **Performed Acts of Righteousness**
- **Obtained Promises**
- **From weakness were made strong**
- **They were tempted**

Closing Prayer-Join in this heritage of people who lived by faith, taking You at Your Word in spite of circumstance or consequences.

Closing Song

Benediction- after closing song

“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith...” Hebrews 12:1