



Heritage Alliance Church

July 2, 2023

Pastor Shawn

By Faith: Living by Faith

"...without faith it is impossible to please God". Hebrews 11:6

Foundation of our Faith – Lordship of Jesus

"Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?" Luke 9:23-25

Common Themes for People of Great Faith – Hebrews 11

- **They BELIEVED God would do what He said**

"It was by faith that Noah built an ark to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about something that had never happened before.... It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land God promised him, he lived there by faith... It was by faith that Sarah together with Abraham was able to have a child, even though they were too old and Sarah was barren... It was by faith that Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice when God was testing him... It was by faith that Moses' parents hid him for three months... It was by faith that the people of Israel went right through the Red Sea as though they were on dry ground... It was by faith that the people of Israel marched around Jericho seven days, and the walls came crashing down..."

- **They took ACTION on what they believed**

"what's the use of saying you have faith if you don't prove it by your actions? That kind of faith can't save anyone... faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead... you say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this... his (Abrahams) faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete." James 2:14,17, 22

- **They were OBEDIENT to God despite adversity**

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." James 1:2-4

- **They abandoned the outcomes to God's Will**

"... but others were tortured, refusing to turn from God in order to be set free. They placed their hope in a better life after the resurrection. Some were jeered at...backs were cut with whips...chained in prisons... died by stoning... destitute and oppressed and mistreated... All of these people earned a good reputation because of their faith".

Hebrews 11:35-40

To Grow Great Faith

Believe & Trust God's Word – What did He say He would do?

Obey God's Word – What do you know for sure?

Continue to trust God despite difficulties

Trusts God with the outcomes

Great Examples of Faith – Hebrews 11

"Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see. Through their faith, the people in days of old earned a good reputation. By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God's command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen.

It was by faith that Abel brought a more acceptable offering to God than Cain did. Abel's offering gave evidence that he was a righteous man, and God showed his approval of his gifts. Although Abel is long dead, he still speaks to us by his example of faith. It was by faith that Enoch was taken up to heaven without dying—"he disappeared, because God took him." For before he was taken up, he was known as a person who pleased God. And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.

It was by faith that Noah built a large boat to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about things that had never happened before. By his faith Noah condemned the rest of the world, and he received the righteousness that comes by faith. It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going. And even when he reached the land God promised him, he lived there by faith—for he was like a foreigner, living in tents. And so did Isaac and Jacob, who inherited the same promise. Abraham was confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built by God.

It was by faith that even Sarah was able to have a child, though she was barren and was too old. She believed that God would keep his promise. And so, a whole nation came from this one man who was as good as dead—a nation with so many people that, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore, there is no way to count them.

All these people died still believing what God had promised them. They did not receive what was promised, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it. They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth.

17 It was by faith that Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice when God was testing him. Abraham, who had received God's promises, was ready to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, even though God had told him, "Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted." Abraham reasoned that if Isaac died, God was able to bring him back to life again. And in a sense, Abraham did receive his son back from the dead.

It was by faith that the people of Israel went right through the Red Sea as though they were on dry ground. But when the Egyptians tried to follow, they were all drowned. It was by faith that the people of Israel marched around Jericho for seven days, and the walls came crashing down. It was by faith that Rahab the prostitute was not destroyed with the people in her city who refused to obey God. For she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

How much more do I need to say? It would take too long to recount the stories of the faith of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and all the prophets. By faith these people overthrew kingdoms, ruled with justice, and received what God had promised them. They shut the mouths of lions, quenched the flames of fire, and escaped death by the edge of the sword. Their weakness was turned to strength. They became strong in battle and put whole armies to flight. Women received their loved ones back again from death.

But others were tortured, refusing to turn from God in order to be set free. They placed their hope in a better life after the resurrection. Some were jeered at, and their backs were cut open with whips. Others were chained in prisons. Some died by stoning, some were sawed in half, and others were killed with the sword. Some went about wearing skins of sheep and goats, destitute and oppressed and mistreated. They were too good for this world, wandering over deserts and mountains, hiding in caves and holes in the ground.

All these people earned a good reputation because of their faith, yet none of them received all that God had promised. For God had something better in mind for us, so that they would not reach perfection without us."