

## Overcoming Faith 2021-04-25

### Hebrews 11:33-40

*who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. 35 Women received back their dead by resurrection.*

*Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. 36 Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— 38 of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.*

*39 And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, 40 since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.*

Many use faith in Jesus Christ as a means to “WIN” comfort/happiness....Best life NOW!

- Enough faith = health/wealth/prosperity...refuted in Hebrews 11.
  - Because a glorious outcome or prolonged struggle is not determined by your faith but God’s purpose in each situation.
- Faith trusts and obeys God, leaving the results to His sovereignty and wisdom. Sometimes God blesses with spectacular results. Hebrews 11:33-35a, 2 Corinthians 3:5
- Miracles (contrary to “normal” way nature works) and less extraordinary ways God sovereignly controls situation (Moses hidden, Rahab).
  - Wasn’t easy, probably worried in midst of event.
    - Out of their weakness came strength from Holy Spirit.
- All accomplished only by God’s power through imperfect people who obeyed and placed faith in Him. John 15:5, 2 Corinthians 4:7
  - Trusting God to come through or fail miserably. LEFC vision

Sometimes by faith God blesses with grace to endure sufferings. Hebrews 11:34-38. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

- Could argue 2<sup>nd</sup> half had greater faith than 1<sup>st</sup> half, not less.
    - true test of faith is trusting God in face of disaster, trial, struggles.
      - my LEFC heroes = you who suffer with chronic pain/trials.
- World’s perspective is they are defeated, disposable ...evidenced by treatment of them.
- God sees them as conquerors - the world is not worthy. Hebrews 11:38, Romans 8:35-39, Philippians 1:21, 4:13

- Even in prolonged struggle with affliction, constant mistreatment, abject poverty....their faith is steady and Jesus Christ is their joy, treasure and enough now/forever.
  - life of faith is a living witness that Lord is sufficient and superior to anything this life can give or death take away.

Can live any circumstance in life if suffering/trials met with faith in GREAT sovereign Lord and live for eternity.....focus heaven/God's promises. Hebrews 11:39-40, 6, 16, 26

- willingly sacrifice present comfort because confident God will bless all who trust Him with eternal rewards.
  - Foundation faith: conviction (strongly convinced) Biblical unseen God exists and absolutely sure He will reward all who seek him.

They gained approval (commended) through faith, yet none received promise (Jesus Christ).

- Never knew Messiah but believed God would fulfill promise.
  - Only saw Messiah in types/shadows, but we see Jesus clearly through New Testament.
- We also live by faith in God's future promises fully received at 2<sup>nd</sup> coming.

Having faith not ultimate determining factor if suffer or escape....God is and He always has a purpose in whichever comes to us. 2 Corinthians 4:7-11

- By grace, faith conquers in struggle or continues in suffering.
  - Faith trusts and obeys God, leaving results to His sovereignty and wisdom as treasure Jesus above anything on earth....including life itself.
    - God's ways are not ours, so regardless of how it looks or ends God is always winning.