

Hebrews 11- Heroes of the Faith

Week 11

The Jewish believers needed to hear about real people that continued faithfully. They needed to be motivated by the work/ministry of those who had gone before. But more so than hearing about the greatness of the people themselves, once again needed the reminding that greatness is found in Jesus alone. These people were heroic not by their abilities or advantages but in the One whom they placed their faith in.

“Faith is *not* a bare belief or intellectual understanding. It is a willingness to trust in, to rely on, and to cling to.” (David Guzik)

Faith is the foundation of a believer. It is a willingness to trust in Someone greater than ourselves. It is not our good works that please God or are counted as righteousness but our faith in Him that pleases God.

1. The Theme of Their Lives: Faith

By faith these people endured. By faith these people were approved. What encouragement! If these people can endure, so can you!

a. Common

These were ordinary people that were not highly educated, not qualified, not perfect. The list includes people who were lazy, doubted, procrastinated, gave excuses, some were old in age, childless, a prostitute, murderer, and an adulterer. If God can use them then he can use sinners like us too!

Each person in this hall of faith had areas of failure but they're still listed here because they didn't quit. They persevered in their faith.

These heroes persevered not because they were great but because the God they served is.

b. Cleansed

Faith is an essential part of salvation. Therefore, we know these were cleansed by God.

OT heroes' faith was in the Savior that was to come. It was their decision to put their faith in God alone that cleansed them and made them usable.

We are partakers because God chose us flaws and all!

We have the same opportunity to impact generations to come because we've been cleansed and made right by God's work. We must tell our children and grandchildren about his wondrous works!

God uses our struggles to purify us.

Purification is necessary in the life of a believer. It makes us more like Jesus.

The heroes persevered because they were cleansed and purified by God's work in their life.

c. Courageous

What set them apart is they didn't let fear control them. They allowed God's strength to hold, guide and help them complete their tasks.

They believed God was who He said He was, and they believed He could what He said He could do.

God's power is ours! The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is in us! But we must stop looking to ourselves and our own strength and rely only on God's.

"The Christian life is not only a changed life but an exchanged life; we give him our weaknesses and He gives us his strength." (Dr. Rogers)

The beautiful exchange: He takes our sin/shame and gives us his perfect obedience. He also takes our weaknesses and gives us his strength!

The heroes persevered because they were empowered by God almighty.

d. Called

These faithful believers had been called by God and they did what God called them to do.

If we're breathing, we have a calling on our life too: to know him and make him known. The specifics just look different from person to person.

One reason these heroes of the faith could persevere is they realized they didn't just have an earthly calling but also a heavenly one. They desired a better place, a heavenly home. They knew a better inheritance awaited.

The heroes persevered because they knew they were called to something greater than themselves.

2. The Reward of Their Lives: Jesus

Faith is trusting God and living out what we believe. The result is that God rewards those who sincerely seek him and do his will.

We are not always rewarded immediately or in our lifetime, but God Himself testifies to the faithful.

a. Provision

God gives what we need when we need it. Everything is his.

God provides for his people whether he sustains or brings forth new things.

God provides physical needs but also emotional and spiritual needs as well.

b. Peace

God rewards his people with peace.

God's perfect peace is not only a cure for his people, but it's also reward! It is always available when we fix our minds on him.

c. Presence

God rewards his people with his presence.

Earthly presence- temporal

Heavenly presence- eternal

God's provisions and peace are great, but nothing compares to His presence. Jesus is the reward!

Because of the work of Jesus, OT believers and NT believers we will be brought together in the presence of God. We get the reward of being in his presence for all eternity!

Homework Questions:

Read Hebrews 11. List each person's name that is a part of this Great Hall of Faith and one thing about them.

Define hero. How are the people listed in the great hall of faith "heroes?"

Why did the Jewish believers need to hear about these people?

Define faith. Why is faith foundational to salvation?

What does Hebrews 11:6 say? What does it mean? What does it tell us about our God?

Why is it good news for us that these people listed here were common, ordinary people?

How do we know (according to the text) that these people were cleansed?

How does Rahab's story reveal God's heart for His people?

What is one, simple way you can impact the next generation?

How does God purify his people? And why does he do it?

In what ways do we see the courage of these people? How do we know it was God who gave them the courage?

How do we know that God's power is available to us? How do we access it? Give scripture to back up your answer.

What is the "beautiful exchange?"

Has God ever called you to something that didn't make sense on paper? How did you respond? Explain.

How does it impact you to know you are called to something greater than yourself?

Give an example of how God provided for you at a time when you needed something most.

Read Ps. 29:11. What does this verse tell us about God? Tell us about ourselves?

What is our great reward? Why is that better than anything the world has to offer?

Self-Evaluation:

What is the theme of YOUR life?

What is the reward of YOUR life?