

Faith: Conclusion

Heb 11:32-40

1. Intro

1. Faith is -- (1)
2. It is impossible to please God without faith (6)
3. We have looked at men and women of faith.
 1. They believed in God.
 2. In Abel, we saw the life of faith.
 3. In Enoch, the walk of faith.
 4. In Noah the work of faith
 5. In Abraham the example of faith
4. Each person that the writer mentioned was less than perfect, as is each one of us.
 1. Yet God approved their faith.
5. In these final verses we see the triumph of faith as it faces death.

2. Many Faithful

1. We see a few names that are now mentioned that we recognize, but nothing is said specific about them. (32)
2. Then we see list of things mentioned that we can connect with known people. (33-34)
 1. Joshua conquered kingdoms.
 2. Daniel shut the lions' mouths (Dan 6:17-22), as did Samson (Judg. 14:5-6), David (1 Sam 17:34-37), and Benaiah (1 Chron 11:22).
 3. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego escaped fiery deaths (Dan 3:23-27).
 4. David, Elijah, Elisha, and Jeremiah avoided execution.
 5. Women even received their dead back because they believed God could and would do what He had promised (cf 1 Kings 17:17-24; 2 Kings 4:17-37).(Elijah and Elisha)
3. But not all those that were faithful had a good outcome. (36-37)
 1. Some endured death.
 2. Those who accept death without apostatizing are those the world is not worthy of because they do not turn from following the Lord even under the most severe pressure.
4. These people were looking for something greater than what was offered in this life. (13-16; 35b)

3. Our Faithfulness

1. This chapter is there to encourage us to trust and obey God no matter what is happening around us.
2. Do we see ourselves as people of faith?
 1. Do you think that you could be included in this list?
 2. If our faith is put in Jesus, we are included.
 3. Our names may not be in the lights, but our faith is just as important to God as anyone else's
3. Your faith, that you hold onto daily, maybe unknowingly, is used by God in a variety of ways.
 1. You may not know the impact until we stand before Jesus.
4. Our faith, as was theirs, is forward looking.
 1. It is by faith the we believe what God has said in scripture is true.

4. Conclusion

1. Faith is the substance of things hoped for....
 1. What is my hope? Jesus.
2. The evidence of things not seen.
 1. Has your life been transformed? Who did that? Jesus, one who we have not yet seen.
3. Now is the time for faith.
 1. To put your trust in Jesus for the first time.
 2. Or to evaluate your faith and maybe begin to deepen it.