



TITLE:

By Faith God's People Overcame and Endured Trials

TEXT:

Hebrews 11:32-40

INTRODUCTION

- In Hebrews 11, the way of faith is presented as the superior principle in contrast to the way of works in the law of Moses.
- It is written to show how the just shall continually live by faith.
- There are numerous other instances showing the example of faith which there is not time to mention.

BY FAITH GOD'S PEOPLE OVERCAME TRIALS

- Gedeon
 - Gedeon was used by God to deliver his people from the oppression of the Midianites.
 - He believed the words of the LORD that were delivered by the angel (Judg. 6:12).
- Barak
 - Barak was used by God to deliver Israel out of the hand of Jabin, king of Canaan.
 - He believed the words of the LORD that were delivered by Deborah (Judg. 4:14).
- Samson
 - Samson was used by God to deliver Israel out of the hands of the Philistines.
 - Though we don't see Samson's faith emphasized in Judges, Hebrews tells us he was a man of faith.
- Jephthae
 - Jephthae was used by God to deliver Israel out of the hand of Ammonites.
 - Judges does not record a specific Word that God gave him, but he could have had faith in God's earlier promises to deliver Israel from the Gentile nations.
- David
 - David, when young, slain the lion and the bear.
 - He triumphed over Great Goliath.
 - He bore patiently the ungrateful malice of Saul.
 - He trusted the Word of God through all his many trials.
- Samuel
 - Samuel was raised to be a most eminent prophet of the Lord to Israel, as well as a ruler over them.
 - He was a writing prophet and he believed the Word of God to the end of his life.
- The prophets
 - They were men who had strong confidence in the words of what God directed them to foretell.
- "subdued kingdoms"
 - Thus did David, Joshua, and many of the judges.
 - Israel subdued the Canaanites (Judg. 4); subdued the Midianites (Judg. 7); subdued the Philistines (2 Sam. 5, 8); subdued the Moabites (2 Sam. 8:2); subdued the Syrians (2 Sam. 8:3-8); subdued the Edomites (2 Sam. 8:14).
- "wrought righteousness"
 - Israel carried the laws of justice into execution, particularly on guilty nations.
 - They turned many from idolatry to the ways of righteousness.
- "obtained promises"
 - Israel obtained what was promised to them by faith. E.g. rescue from bondage, the promise land,
- "stopped the mouths of lions"
 - Samson, David and Daniel stopped the mouths of lions by faith (Judg. 14:5-6; 1 Sam. 17:33-36; Dan. 6:20-23).
- "quenched the violence of fire"
 - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to worship the golden image, exposed them to the fiery furnace, and quenched the violence of the fire (Dan. 3:17-27).

- “escaped the edge of the sword”
 - David escaped the sword of Goliath and of Saul.
 - Mordecai and the Jews escaped the sword of Haman.
- “out of weakness were made strong”
 - Gideon, Samson and Hezekiah were made strong out of their weaknesses by faith (Judge. 6:13-27; Judge. 15:15; 2 Kings 20:1).
- “waxed valiant in fight”
 - Samson, Jonathan, David, David’s mighty men and others waxed valiant in fight (Jud. 15:14-20; 1 Sam. 14:4-14; 1 Sam. 17; 2 Sam. 23:8-39).
- “turned to flight the armies of the aliens”
 - Israel put to flight their foreign enemies - invading Philistines, Ammonites, Moabites, Assyrians, etc.
- “women received their dead raised to life again”
 - The woman of Zarephath, whose child was restored to life by Elijah, and of the son of the Shunamite woman whose child was restored to life by Elisha (1 Ki. 17:22-24; 2 Ki. 4:8-37).
- Trials and victories can be accomplished by faith in God’s Word.

BY FAITH GOD’S PEOPLE ENDURED TRIALS

- “and others”
 - The first part of Hebrews 11 illustrates what was accomplished by God’s people through faith. But others, even though they have the same faith, had a different kind of result.
- “tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection”
 - It refers to a form of severe torture to make them renounce their faith.
 - Deliverance was offered but they didn’t accept it.
 - They look to their resurrection in the last days and their better reward.
- “had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings”
 - Samson, Elisha and Jeremiah had trial of cruel mocking (Judge. 16:25; 2 Ki. 2:23; Jer. 20:7).
 - Jeremiah was smitten and once put into the stocks (Jer. 20:2; 37:15).
- “moreover of bonds and imprisonment”
 - Joseph, Micaiah, Hanani and Jeremiah were imprisoned (Gen. 39:20; 1 Ki. 22:27; 2 Chron. 16; Jer. 32:3-4; 37:15; 38:6-13).
- “they were stoned,”
 - Naboth and Zechariah were stoned (1 Ki. 21:13-15; 2 Ch. 24:20-21).
- “they were sawn asunder,”
 - Tradition says that Isaiah was sawn asunder by Manasseh.
- “were tempted”
 - Joseph was tempted by Potiphar’s wife (Gen. 39:7-12).
- “were slain with the sword:”
 - The priests of the LORD were slain by Doeg (1 Sam. 22:17)
- “they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; ... they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.”
 - David wandered about when fleeing from Saul (1 Sam. 22:1; 23:15, 19; 24:1-3; 26:1).
 - Elijah wandered about when hiding from Ahab and fleeing from Jezebel (1 Ki. 17:3; 19:9).
 - They had no raiment to put on but were forced to cover themselves with the skins of slain beasts.
- “Of whom the world was not worthy:”
 - The world was so wicked that it had no claim that such martyr should live in it. God declares the world is not worthy of them.
- Trials and suffering can be endured by faith in God’s Word.