

"The Walk of Faith"

Part 28

11:1-40

Introduction: In our study of Hebrews we are coming to the end of chapter 11 and it is in this chapter that the writer has given to us many examples of what it looks like to live by faith. Starting in verse 32 and going through the end of the chapter the writer is bringing us to the pinnacle of faith. Let me give you a short review of what we looked at the last time we were together.

Starting in verse 33 the writer lists some of the victories which can be traced back into the lives of the Old Testament Saints.

Notice Hebrews 11:33

1. **They subdued kingdoms.**
2. **They wrought righteousness.**
3. **They obtained promises.**
4. **They stopped the mouths of lions.**

Notice Hebrews 11:34

5. **They quenched the violence of fire.**
6. **They escaped the edge of the sword.**

This now brings us to where we are tonight in our study.

I. **The Pinnacle of Faith**

Part 2

A. **True Faith Conquers**

Notice Hebrews 11:34 again.

7. **Out of weakness they were made strong.**
8. **They waxed valiant in fight.**

9. Turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

All of these statements point back for sure to the book of Judges where we read of those whom God lifted up to be Judges and to deliver Israel from the hands of the oppressors. God chose those who were man would have never picked to be leaders.

Joshua is one who could also be included in these statements. What did Joshua know about fighting in any battles? The answer would be, "Nothing!" He was raised as a slave under the oppression of the Egyptians. He then followed in the shadow of Moses for 40 years as Israel journeyed through the wilderness. He had no military training but yet he became a mighty soldier for God. Let me show you the reputation which Joshua had built in the land of Canaan.

Joshua 10:1-10

Now it came to pass, when Adonizedec king of Jerusalem had heard how Joshua had taken Ai, and had utterly destroyed it; as he had done to Jericho and her king, so he had done to Ai and her king; and how the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel, and were among them;

² That they feared greatly, because Gibeon was a great city, as one of the royal cities, and because it was greater than Ai, and all the men thereof were mighty.

³ Wherefore Adonizedec king of Jerusalem, sent unto Hoham king of Hebron, and unto Piram king of Jarmuth, and unto Japhia king of Lachish, and unto Debir king of Eglon, saying,

⁴ Come up unto me, and help me, that we may smite Gibeon: for it hath made peace with Joshua and with the children of Israel.

⁵ Therefore the five kings of the Amorites, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, the king of Eglon, gathered themselves together, and went up, they and all their hosts, and encamped before Gibeon, and made war against it.

⁶ And the men of Gibeon sent unto Joshua to the camp to Gilgal, saying, Slack not thy hand from thy servants: come up to us quickly, and save us, and help us: for all the kings of the Amorites that dwell in the mountains are gathered together against us.

⁷ So Joshua ascended from Gilgal, he, and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valour.

⁸ And the LORD said unto Joshua, Fear them not: for I have delivered them into thine hand: there shall not a man of them stand before thee.

⁹ Joshua therefore came unto them suddenly, and went up from Gilgal all night.

¹⁰ *And the LORD discomfited them before Israel, and slew them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, and chased them along the way that goeth up to Bethhoron, and smote them to Azekah, and unto Makkedah.*

Joshua is just one example and there are many more in the book of Judges. God used a woman, a left handed man, clay pot and a lamp, an ox goad, a tent spike, the jaw bone of an ass and the list goes on. This all happened by God through weak people who were willing to exercise faith.

Notice Hebrews 11:35a

10. Women received their dead raised to life again.

There are 2 examples of this in the Old Testament. We are not going to take the time to look at each of these but I will give you the references for each situation.

The first took place during the days of Elijah (1 Kings 17:17-24).

The second took place during the days of Elisha (2 Kings 4:18-37).

Each of these situations was the result of faith.

So this concludes a list of people who were delivered FROM THEIR FOES. Now we come to a list of others who were delivered TO THEIR FOES. This section is the absolute pinnacle of faith.

Notice Hebrews 11:35

11. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

I think it is very important that the writer does not place the word "but" in this verse. The writer just tells us "and others were tortured". It is not a contrast in the eyes of the writer but instead it is just a different lot which God had given to these people. Those in this section exercised the greatest amount of faith and in their faith some suffered even unto death. Let us look closely at this verse in sections.

"and others were tortured"

The word "tortured" here means "racked". This was a method of torture used by the Romans many times in an attempt to get the Christians to deny their faith. The one who was "racked" had their hands and their feet tied and by the ropes the body was stretched

until the limbs were pulled from their sockets. Often there was a screw which was turned which continued to stretch the body.

"not accepting deliverance;"

Deliverance was offered to these people but it was at the price of denial. All they had to do was offer a pinch of salt on the altar to the false god or bow the knee to the false god or just recant their faith in Christ. There was an option set before them, disloyalty to Jesus Christ or extreme suffering.

These people had bought the Truth with a great price and that was they had turned their backs upon the world. They no longer lived for what this world had to offer. They had made the sacrifice and purchased the Truth and they refused to sell it back again.

Proverbs 23:23a

23 Buy the truth, and sell it not...

"that they might obtain a better resurrection:"

There are 2 thoughts which the writer could have had in mind here. He could have been referring to what Daniel had recorded in Daniel 12.

Daniel 12:1, 2

And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

² *And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*

There are 2 resurrections mentioned here by David and they are 1000 years apart. The resurrection of the Old Testament Saints will take place at the end of the Tribulation and the resurrection of the unbelievers will take place after the 1000 year reign of Jesus Christ on this earth. This will be the Great White Throne Judgment. This may have been what the writer of Hebrews was referring to. They chose steadfastness which is a sign of TRUE salvation as opposed to turning their backs upon God which is apostasy. They chose to die to self and surrender the situation over to God instead of giving into the pressures which they were under.

There is also another thought which I believe the writer had in mind as he penned these words. When the pressures of persecution came upon those whom the writer is referring to there was the opportunity to compromise instead of standing firm for God. Now had they compromised they would then have been LIFTED UP [resurrected] so as to enjoy the temporary comforts of this life. You see if they had compromised they would have been LIFTED UP to enjoy the EARTHLY comforts and honors of this life. But they refused to live for this world. Their lives are a picture of the words of Paul from Romans 8.

Romans 8:18

¹⁸ For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Their lives also are a picture of the words of Peter.

1 Peter 4:19, 5:6-7

¹⁹ Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator

⁶ Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

⁷ Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

The bottom line is this, they had to make a decision between an easy life or a difficult life. They chose the difficult life and the anchor for their souls was the BETTER RESURRECTION or we could say eternal riches.

Application:

There will be times in our lives also in which we will be faced with decisions to stand for the TRUTH or compromise. If we compromise we may be LIFTED UP to enjoy the comforts and the honors of this life and if we stand for God the cost may be great. This should not surprise us even a little. Let me show you the words of our Lord to His disciples and these words also apply to our lives.

John 15:18-21

¹⁸ If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.

¹⁹ If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

²⁰ Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

²¹ But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.

Let me also show you what Peter wrote to those who faced the persecution from Nero.

1 Peter 4:12, 13

¹² Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

¹³ But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

The point we need to understand is that when we stand up for God there will be pressure and we are going to need to be focused upon our eternal rewards if we are going to stay firm.

Conclusion:

There is a point which I want us to end with tonight and that is we must remember that God delivers some FROM THEIR FOES and others He delivers TO THEIR FOES.

Our attitude must be like that of Daniel's 3 friends when they faced the furnace.

Daniel 3:14-18

¹⁴ Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?

¹⁵ Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.

¹⁷ If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.

¹⁸ But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

Let us notice the words of the Psalmist in closing.

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Hebrews Study #109

Psalm 66:10-12

¹⁰ *For thou, O God, hast proved us: thou hast tried us, as silver is tried.*

¹¹ *Thou broughtest us into the net; thou laidst affliction upon our loins.*

¹² *Thou hast caused men to ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water:
but thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place.*