

October 12, 2008

The Bridge Bible Fellowship

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Hebrews 11:32-40

*“Jesus Christ is Infinitely Better!”*

**Examples of Faith, Part Fourteen: Many Others**

- I. Jesus Christ: Infinitely Better in His **PERSON** (1-7)
- II. Jesus Christ: Infinitely Better in His **WORK** (8:1-10:18)
- III. **Christianity: An Infinitely Better WALK OF FAITH (10:19-13:24)**
  - A. The Confidence of Faith (10:19-39)
  - B. **The Examples of Faith (11)**
    - 1. Definition (Description) of Faith (11:1-3): **a) Recognizing** the invisible God; **b) Responding** obediently to God’s spoken word; **c) Receiving** God’s gracious approval
    - 2. Examples of Faith (11:4-40)
      - a. Abel (v. 4) – Faith Worshiping
      - b. Enoch (v. 5-6) – Faith Walking
      - c. Noah (v. 7) – Faith Working
      - d. Abraham and Sarah – Faith Waiting
      - e. Isaac – Faith Waiting
      - f. Jacob – Faith Waiting
      - g. Joseph – Faith Waiting
      - h. Moses’ Parents – Faith Watching (v. 23)
      - i. Moses – Faith Warring (v. 24-29)
      - j. Joshua – Faith Winning (v. 30)
      - k. Rahab – Faith Winning (v. 31)
      - l. **Many Other Heroes of Faith – Faith \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 32-40)**

### Discussion Questions:

1. In our introduction to Hebrews, I said that I believed the Epistle to the Hebrews was originally a sermon that was later put in written form. Is there anything in this section that might support that theory?
2. Read through the Old Testament stories of the people briefly mentioned in this section. How did they persevere when situations seemed impossible? Do you see the three-fold definition of faith in their lives?
  - Gideon – Judges 6-8
  - Barak – Judges 4-5
  - Samson – Judges 13-16
  - Jephthah – Judges 11-12
  - David – 1 Samuel 16ff
  - Samuel – 1 Samuel
  - Prophets – whole Old Testament - ☺
3. Read Hebrews 11:33-38. Can you connect specific Old Testament people with the brief descriptions in this passage? What was it like for these people to go through these things? Were these “real people” or are these just stories? Was it easier or harder for these people to trust God?
4. There is a definite transition in the middle of verse 35. What is it? Why is this important? Does this support or contradict what a lot of “faith” preachers are saying today? What does it say about genuine “faith”? Should we expect an easy life if we are followers of Jesus? Why or why not? Give biblical support.
5. Heb. 11:38 describes the people who went through these things as “*men* of whom the world was not worthy.” What did the author mean by that? Why would the world not be worthy of such *men*? Why would the world so severely mistreat such men?
6. How does Heb. 11:39 support point 3 in our definition of faith? In what sense did these people gain approval? What specific promises did they not receive?
7. What is the “something better” that God has provided for us? Why were the Old Testament saints not able to be made “perfect” apart from us?
8. If Old Testament saints persevered by faith through seemingly impossible situations without seeing the promises fulfilled, what should we be able to do having seen the promised coming of the Messiah fulfilled?
9. Has God fulfilled all of His promises to us? What is yet to be fulfilled? How does Hebrews 11 help us wait until God fulfills ALL of His promises? What should we be doing while we are waiting?

[Answer to outline blank: **Winning**]