

sermon notes

Pastor Tony Caffey, Verse By Verse Fellowship | Christ Supreme in All Things
May 14, 2023 | “Faith Come What May” | **Hebrews 11:32-40**

- 1) Faith _____ us to do great things for God
(11:32-35a)

- 2) Faith _____ us to endure great suffering for God
(11:35b-38)

- 3) Faith _____ us a greater hope for the future
(11:39-40)

Questions for Further Application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Hebrews 11:32-34. Quickly summarize as best you can the biblical accounts of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, and Samuel. How well do you think the first century Jewish Christians would have known these individuals? In what ways was faith demonstrated in their lives? What amazing things did they do for God?

Read Hebrews 11:35. What are the two kinds of resurrection that are referenced in that verse? How do OT saints “rise again to a better life?” Is this type of resurrection available to us as well? If so, how? Why does 11:39 say that they (the OT saints) “did not receive what was promised?”

Read Hebrews 11:39-40. What does the author mean when he says that “apart from us,” the OT saints “should not be made perfect?” Who are the “us” in that sentence? What do the “us” in that verse share in common with the OT saints?

GET PERSONAL

When you think about the results of “faith in God,” what immediately comes to mind? Accomplishing great, miraculous deeds? Or enduring great suffering? Why?

In Hebrews 11 we see several examples of “forward-looking faith” (cf. 11:10, 16, 26, 35, 39-40). Hebrews 11:1 says that faith is “the assurance of things hoped for.” How does your faith in Christ ultimately look forward? What are you looking forward to? What promises of God are you holding on to through life and death? How does Hebrews 11 encourage your forward-looking faith?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Consider how Hebrews 11, and especially 11:32-38, should impact your prayer life. Do you pray boldly for God to do amazing things in your life? If not, why not? How do you respond to “unanswered prayers” when God denies your requests? How can your prayer life be a combination of both petition (James 4:2 - “You do not have because you do not ask God”) and submission (Matt 26:39 - “Not as I will, but as you will”)?

ADVANCED QUESTION

There are several references in Hebrews 11:35-38 to the intertestamental period (roughly 400 BC – AD 25). Some of the events stated in this passage are also recorded in the so-called Apocrypha. Do these references require us to accept the Apocrypha as inspired Scripture? If not, why not? See the following resources for an assessment of this issue:

1. “What is the Apocrypha?” by Robert Plummer: https://youtu.be/vVbYNmKi_Zk
2. “Why Sixty-Six Books? The Development of the Canon” by Stephen Nichols: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9gXNpWyzA>
3. “Should Protestants Read the Apocrypha?” by Peter J. Gurry, John D. Meade: <https://www.crossway.org/articles/should-protestants-read-the-apocrypha/>