

Hebrews 11:32 - 12:1

The writer of Hebrews summarizes many others who lived victoriously through their faith in the Lord. But, there is a reminder that faith also is real through the trials of life. Biblical faith is not a promise of victories in life, though certainly these occur, but the grace that God gives, as we trust Him, through the difficult trials of life as well. The first two verses of chapter 12 encourages us to be faithful in light of all those who have gone before us, reminding us that if we are to be faithful our focus must be on Jesus.

32 And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:

Gideon (Judges 6:11 - 8:32)

Barak (Judges 4:1 - 5:31)

Samson (Judges 13:1 - 16:31)

Jephthah (Judges 11:1 - 12:7)

David (1 Samuel 16 ff)

Samuel (1 Samuel 1 ff)

Prophets these would include such men as Elijah, Elisha, Nathan, Ezekiel, Jonah, and Daniel.

33 Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

Subdued kingdoms - Joshua, the Judges, David, Hezekiah are some who fit this

Wrought righteousness - Elijah (Mt. Carmel - 1 Kings 18:36-40; Josiah (2 Kings 22:1-3, 11-20; 23:1-3)

Obtained promises - Caleb (Joshua 14:5-15)

Stopped the mouth of lions - Daniel (Daniel 4:15-22); Samson (Judges 14:5-6); David (1 Samuel 17:34-36); Benaiah (1 Chronicles 11:22-25).

34 Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

Quenched the violence of fire - Moses (Numbers 11:1-2); Hanania [Shadrach], Mishael [Meshach] and Azariah [Abednego] (Daniel 3:16)

Escaped the edge of the sword - David (1 Samuel 17:42-49).

Out of weakness was made strong - Sarah in conceiving Isaac (Genesis 21:1-7); Hezekiah (Isaiah 38:1-5)

Waxed valiant in fight - King Asa (2 Chronicles 14:1-12); Hezekiah (Isaiah 37:14-19;36)

Turned to flight the armies of the enemy - Joshua (Joshua 10:5-11)

35 Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

Women received their dead raised to life again - Widow of Zarepath's son (1 Kings 17:17-24); Elisha and the Sunammite woman (2 Kings 4:18-37)

36 And others had trial of *cruel* mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

Others had trial of mockings and scourgings as well as bonds and imprisonment - Jeremiah (Jer. 20:1-2, 7)

37 They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

38 (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and *in* mountains, and *in* dens and caves of the earth.

Faith is strong even in the midst of the evils of the world.

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|---|--|
| Stoned - | ????????? |
| Sawn asunder - | Isaiah (according to Jewish tradition) |
| Wandered about - | ????????? |
| Destitute, Afflicted, tormented, wandered - | many not named believers |

The world is not worthy to suffer for the Lord because their life is not given to the glory of God.

-----There are 4 things to consider in the next 4 verses.-----

39 And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:

1. These believers never saw the promise (the Messiah) but lived for God

The testimony (from God) of these people was they had done well (Heb. 11:2; Matthew 25:21,23) even though they had not received the promises (Heb. 11:13). The promise (singular) here is probably referring to the Messiah not coming during their lifetime.

40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

2. Their early believers resurrection waits for church age believers to be resurrected

The better thing is what this epistle is speaking about - Jesus, and salvation and resurrection through Him.

The us is the church and both the church and earlier saints were made perfect, positionally, at the death of Jesus (Hebrews 10:14), but practically at the resurrection. God's plan all along was that with the coming of Messiah there would be those "in Christ" who would be part of the resurrection. Believers before Messiah came would not be resurrected until the church was born and resurrected via the rapture..

1 Corinthians 15: 21 For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead.
 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.
 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are
 Christ's at his coming.
 24 Then *cometh* the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God,
 even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and
 power.

But every man in his own order

1) First Century

Jesus "Christ the firstfruits"

"afterward they that are Christ's at his coming."

2) Before the Tribulation Period

Resurrected Church-Age Saints (Rapture) - 2 Tim. 2:12; 1 Cor. 6:2; (1 Thess. 4:14-18)

- 3) End of the Tribulation Period (Rev. 20:6)
 - Resurrected Old Testament Saints Daniel 12:2,13
 - Resurrected martyred Tribulation Saints Rev. 20:4
- 4) During the millennium????????????????; after the millennium???????????? Millennium saints

1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

3. The testimony of these challenges witnesses us to put aside whatever would prevent us from serving him and to be faithful.

Faithful believers of the past challenge us to live for the Lord.

“Witnesses” is μαρτυς mar'-toos. Our English word today is martyr.

The same word is used in Acts 1:8 “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses [μαρτυς] unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

We are challenged to put aside whatever might hinder us from serving the Lord and run the race with patience. The Christian life is not a spring, it is a marathon. Those who run well will earn rewards.

“Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.”
2 John 8

- 2 Peter 1
- 1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:
 - 2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,
 - 3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:
 - 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.
 - 5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;
 - 6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;
 - 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.
 - 8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - 11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

4. We need to focus on Jesus and consider Him.

A. Our example and focus - Jesus

Looking unto - ἀφοραω af-or-ah'-o Meaning: to turn the eyes away from other things and fix them on something

Jesus, who is the

1) **author**

αρχηγος ar-khay-gos'

Meaning: 1) the chief leader, prince 1a) of Christ 2) one that takes the lead in any thing and thus affords an example, a predecessor in a matter, pioneer 3) the author

and

2) **finisher**

τελειωτης tel-i-o-tace'

Meaning: 1) a perfecter 2) one who has in his own person raised faith to its perfection and so set before us the highest example of faith

of our faith

It is through the work of Jesus - justification, sanctification, glorification - who begins ~~adds~~ our life of faith.

3) **"...who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross..."**

Victory in the trials of life comes through:

1. The hope of the future

Philippians 3:

13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

"...despising the shame..."

2. Commitment to the process

Philippians 3:17-21

17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:

19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

20 For our **conversation** is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

Conversation - πολιτευμα pol-it'-yoo-mah

Meaning: a community, i.e. (abstractly) citizenship

"...is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

3. The reward of a task completed

Hebrews. 6:10

For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.