

Jesus is Better – Hebrews

Hebrews 11:32-40

“God’s Better Provision” – June 24th, 2018



Introduction

The heroes of the faith in Hebrews 11 have shown us examples of what it looks like to trust God in a variety of situations. As we strive to hold fast our confession of hope ([10:23](#)) and look to Christ who holds us fast ([12:2](#)) these examples become an encouragement we are to imitate. Though God promises us our destination and the grace to make it there, we don't know all that will happen as we travel from where we are today to that promised end. Instead of leaning on our understanding, we're called to trust in God with all our heart ([Prov. 3:5-6](#)). The examples we see in the end of chapter 11 remind us that faith trusts God *for* triumph, *in* tragedy, and *to* the end.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

- I. Trust God for Triumph (11:32-35a)
- II. Trust God in Tragedy (11:35b-38)
- III. Trust God to the End (11:39-40)

Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [Hebrews 11:32-35](#)

The six heroes mentioned in v32 are examples of those who experienced deliverance and triumph in trusting God. And yet, they are each flawed. What makes each of them 'heroic' is not their self-righteousness or abilities, but faith in a good and powerful God. Have past failures kept you on the sidelines because you feel God can't use you anymore? If so, confess your sin, turn from it, receive God's promised forgiveness ([1Jn. 1:9](#)) and press on!

Even though God doesn't promise us triumph in every situation this side of heaven, that doesn't mean we should fall into a cynicism that assumes God never does or cannot. He can and does still heal diseases, save broken relationships, raise the spiritual dead to new life, and move the heart of kings. Jesus models the balance beautifully for us when He prays in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will" (Mark 14:36). Jesus believed *all things are possible* and asked God to remove the cup of suffering (as we should pray and ask God to act). And yet, He also trusted God with His future; with what God the Father would will for Him. We should do the same: what are you in need of? Ask God! And as you ask, can you trust Him for what He says is best?

Additional reading: Psalm 37:23-24, Micah 7:7-8, James 4:2

- 2) Read [Hebrews 11:35-38](#)

Sometimes the path of faith means triumph this side of heaven; sometimes it means tragedy. As we see in the heroes of the faith, trusting God's promises with the help of the Holy Spirit is the means by which we are strengthened to trust God in hard times. As we've seen before, *Faith is confident obedience to God's word despite the circumstances and consequences.* It's important to remember faith is not based on our feelings, our subjective whims, or desires, but what God says to us in Scripture. We need to be careful students of the word – carefully considering the context, grammar, and relying on God's Spirit to *rightly* divide His word. Once we've done that...faith acts on what God commands and promises. What are ways you're tempted to 'negotiate the terms' with following God? How is God honored when we trust and follow Him, despite the circumstances and consequences?

Additional reading: James 1:1-2, Lamentations 3:22-24

3) Read [Hebrews 11:39-40](#)

Trusting God when we don't know if tomorrow holds triumph or tragedy can be scary and challenging. How can we do it? Hebrews offers 3 gospel graces to help: *a better hope, a sovereign plan, and a supportive family.* What is the better hope God offers us? How does knowing God is in control help us trust Him in joy and sorrow? How does God use our spiritual family to practically help us trust God to the end? What are ways you can encourage your spiritual brothers and sisters at First Baptist Church of Upper Marlboro this week, so they are helped to trust God to the end?

Additional reading: Romans 8:28, Hebrews 3:13-14, 10:24-25

Prayer of Response

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

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