

GROWTH GROUPS

March 11, 2012

Hebrews 11:32-40

Conversation Starter –

Who in your life has exhibited great faith? What makes you say this?

Understanding –

“Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” (11:1) This is what those who are named in the litany of faith are commended for and this is what we, along with the original recipients of this letter, are being encouraged towards. It’s important to note that all through the chapter, God commends a certain type of faith over another. These few verses continue to unpack this faith that God commends.

1. Verses 32-38 list the outcome of many people’s faith. Based on this list, does the temporal outcome of someone’s faith equate to the genuineness or strength of one’s interior faith? What makes a particular person’s faith, “great?”
2. 1 Chronicles 4:9-10 recounts a rather obscure prayer from a man named Jabez. In recent years a teaching has developed around this prayer encouraging people to pray for wealth (territory) and health (free from pain) believing that God will give to those who have true faith. Compare the faith of Jabez to those commended in Hebrews 11:35-38. How do you believe God wants us to pray? (reference Jesus for more insight; Matthew 6:9-13; 26:36-42)
3. Verse 40 refers to the corporate nature of faith in the plan of God. Spend some time considering how “they” are made perfect with “us” in God’s plan? What does this mean? If God has a plan that is being worked out among many people and not just yourself, how does this influence your understanding of obedience in faith?