

Hebrews 11

- A. Written to Hebrew Christians facing persecution
- B. Some questioning their faith in Christ
- C. Purpose: Encourage those wondering if following Christ was worth it
- D. Call to live by faith

- A. Author says "what more shall I say" (Hebrews 11:32)
- B. John's testimony about Jesus (John 21:25, 20:30)
- C. No human record can exhaust the fullness of Christ
- D. Eternity will not be enough to know everything about Christ

IV. The Judges Period - Flawed Men of Faith

A. Gideon

1. His flaws: questioned God, saw himself as insignificant, asked for confirmation, fearful
2. His faith: trusted God with only 300 men against Midianites
3. God reduced resources to show His power (Judges 7:2)
4. Victory came through God, not human strength
5. Application: God sometimes reduces our strengths to show His mighty hand

B. Barak

1. Hesitated to go to battle without Deborah
2. God had already promised victory
3. Acted on God's promise despite uncertainty
4. Lesson: God honors obedient faith even when fearful

C. Samson

1. Set apart as a Nazarite to deliver Israel
2. His flaws: womanizer, pursued Philistine women, involved with prostitute
3. Wedding riddle incident - killed 30 Philistines in anger
4. Delilah betrayal - lost strength, captured, eyes gouged out
5. Didn't realize the Lord had departed from him
6. Sin progression illustration: basement steps getting darker
7. How sin progresses: compromise → failure → revenge → destruction → spiritual neglect → loss
8. Modern vehicle drift system analogy
9. How to avoid spiritual neglect:
 - Know where you are with the Lord
 - Purpose to get back in your lane
 - Have accountability partner
 - Identify weaknesses
 - Don't compromise

10. Included in hall of faith because he turned back in faith

D. Jephthah

1. Son of a harlot, driven away by half-brothers
2. Made rash vow before battle (Judges 11:31)
3. Daughter came out to meet him
4. Scholarly debate about the vow's fulfillment
5. Lesson: Can make serious mistakes and still genuinely trust God

V. The Kingdom Era Leaders

A. King David

1. Giant killer (Goliath)
2. Trusted God while fleeing from Saul
3. Repented after sinning with Bathsheba and Uriah
4. Faith is not absence of failure but turning back to God
5. Encouragement: knocked down but not knocked out

B. Samuel the Prophet

1. Son of Hannah (woman of faith who was barren)
2. Dedicated to the Lord by his mother
3. Prophet, priest, and Israel's last judge
4. God called him as a young boy
5. Delivered difficult message to Eli about judgment
6. Lesson: God gives responsibility to speak truth faithfully
7. Righteous testimony:
 - Lord was with him (1 Sam 3:19)
 - Never cheated or oppressed anyone (1 Sam 12:4)
8. Challenge: Set aside 5-10 minutes daily in silence to listen to God

VI. Faith Solves Variety of Problems (Hebrews 11:33-35a)

- A. Subdued kingdoms
- B. Worked righteousness
- C. Obtained promises
- D. Stopped mouths of lions (Daniel)
- E. Quenched violence of fire (Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego) -
 - Refused to worship golden statue -
 - Thrown in furnace heated 7 times hotter -
 - Not harmed, however, those who threw them in died
- F. Heb 11:34b Escaped edge of sword -
 - David protected from Saul -
 - Elijah protected from Jezebel

- G. Modern example: Israel's wars (1948 independence, 1967 Six-Day War)
- H. Out of weakness made strong
- I. Became valiant in battle
- J. Women received dead raised to life (Elijah and Elisha's miracles)

VII. The Other Side of Faith - Suffering (Hebrews 11:35b-40)

- A. Others tortured, not accepting deliverance
- B. Mockings, scourgings, chains, imprisonment
- C. Stoned, sawn in two, slain with sword
- D. Wandered destitute, afflicted, tormented
- E. "Of whom the world was not worthy" (verse 38) -
 - World saw them as losers -
 - God saw them as worthy -
 - Hundreds of thousands of Christian martyrs
- F. Obtained good testimony through faith
- G. Did not receive the promise
- H. God provided something better for us
- I. Key truth: Faith not measured by victory or suffering, but by trust in God

VIII. Conclusion

- A. The Flawed Hall of Fame illustration -
- B. Blooper reels alongside highlights -
- C. Gideon hiding in winepress -
- D. Samson's relationship choices -
- E. Jephthah's broken family

God doesn't edit out bloopers - He redeems them

Hall of Faith about direction, not perfection

Application: Write down biggest spiritual failure/weakness - Remember, "I'm still in the race"

Final truth: God doesn't wait for perfect people, He works through faithful people