

Examples of Faith from Hebrews 11:33-35

- A. Those who subdued kingdoms and worked righteousness
- B. Daniel and the lion's den
- C. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace
- D. Those who escaped the sword (David, Elijah)
- E. Modern examples: Israel's wars (1948, 1967)
- F. Made strong out of weakness
- G. Women who received their dead raised to life

The Cost of Faith (Hebrews 11:35-40)

- A. Others were tortured and not delivered
- B. Trial of mocking's, scourging's, chains, imprisonment
- C. Stoned, sawn in two, slain with the sword
- D. Wandered in sheepskins and goatskins
- E. World was not worthy of them
- F. Did not receive the promise in their lifetime
- G. God provided something better through Christ

The Flawed Hall of Fame

- A. Biblical heroes had bloopers and highlights
 1. Gideon hiding in winepress
 2. Samson's relationship choices
 3. Jephthah's broken family
- B. God's Hall of Faith is about direction, not perfection
- C. God redeems our failures
- D. God works through faithful people, not perfect people

Running the Race with Endurance (Hebrews 12:1-2)

- A. Surrounded by great cloud of witnesses
- B. Lay aside every weight and sin
- C. Run with endurance the race set before us
- D. Looking unto Jesus, author and finisher of faith

The Race of Faith

- A. Building endurance through consistent discipline
 1. Daily scripture reading
 2. Prayer
 3. Weekly worship
- B. Running according to God's rules (2 Timothy 2:5)
- C. It's not how you start, but how you finish
- D. The Tortoise and Hare illustration
 1. Persistence matters
 2. Slow is still forward

E. Paul's examples

1. 1 Corinthians 9:24 - Run to obtain the prize
2. Philippians 3:13-14 - Forgetting what's behind
3. 2 Timothy 4:7 - Finished the race

Laying Aside Weights and Sin (Hebrews 12:1)

A. Weights are not inherently sinful but hinder devotion

1. Entertainment, social media, hobbies
2. Excessive work
3. Things that consume time and attention

B. How to get rid of excess weight

1. Start small - reduce time on distractions
2. Replace with prayer and scripture
3. Take inventory of what pushes God aside

C. Martha's example of distraction (Luke 10:40-42)

D. Sin as lawlessness (1 John 3:4)

E. Whitewashed tombs - appearing righteous outwardly (Matthew 23:28)

Looking to Jesus (Hebrews 12:2)

A. How to look to Jesus daily

1. Look BACK to the cross - remember what He did
2. Look UP to risen Christ - remember where He is
3. Look AHEAD to His return - live for that day

B. Jesus as author and finisher of faith

1. Prince of life
2. Captain of our salvation
3. Accomplished salvation
4. Conquered death
5. Entered God's presence as High Priest

C. Jesus endured the cross for the joy set before Him

1. His joy was doing Father's will
2. His joy was providing salvation
3. His joy is us - fellowship with believers

D. Jesus despised the shame but endured

E. Now sits at right hand of Throne of God

Conclusion

- A. If we endure, we shall reign with Him (2 Timothy 2:12)
- B. Jesus' desire for eternal fellowship with believers (John 17:24)
- C. His work of atonement is finished
- D. He possesses supreme authority and reigns in glory