

**Series:** The Faith of Our Fathers, a study in Hebrews

**Sermon:** The Pros and Cons of Living by Faith

**Primary Text:** Hebrews 11:24-40

**Discussion guide:**

- Read Luke 14:25-33
  - What is Jesus' point here?
  - Why does He want you to consider the cost of following Him?
- Read Hebrews 11:24-40
  - Make two lists one all the positive things that happened and the other all the negative.
  - What does this tell you about living by faith?
- Pro of living by faith – “greater wealth”: Verse 26 says that Moses considered the reproach of Christ a “greater wealth”...
  - Why would this reference Christ when He hadn't come to earth yet in Moses' time?
  - How does living by faith provide a “greater wealth” for us?
- Con of living by faith – unfair persecution: Notice all the persecution listed in the vs. 36-38.
  - Why do you think the world reacts so strongly to people who live by faith? (see John 7:7; 1 John 3:12)
  - Have you ever suffered in any way for the faith?
  - Read Acts 5:40-42
    - Why did the apostles rejoice?
    - Does this mean we should try to be persecuted?
- Pro of living by faith – the antidote for fear: Notice the lack of fear Moses has in verse 27.
  - In the sermon we mentioned that the phrase “Do not be afraid” or some version of it is mentioned 365 times in the Bible, why do you suppose that is?
  - If we cannot predict the future or how things are going to go – why shouldn't we fear even if we do have faith?
- Con of living by faith – seasons of wandering: notice the wandering mention in verse 38, read Matthew 8:20
  - In what ways does faith sometimes lead us to proverbial “wandering in the wilderness”?
- Pro of living by faith – a clear way to live: notice how important obedience is, not just to the text but to the entire chapter. Faith, following God, gives us a way to live even when wandering.
  - When you can't see the big picture – how does faith show you what to do right now?
  - What is the value of knowing your obeying God in a simple, moral act even when you can't see what's around the corner?

- Con of living by faith – not always seeing the fruit.
  - Read Hebrews 11:39-40.
    - Why is this hard?
    - Why is this important to know?
- Con of living by faith – unpredictable temporal deliverance.
  - Some would say that if you have enough faith you won't suffer – you will be delivered. How does our text prove this is false?
  - Look at the lists you made – does there seem to be a rhyme or reason to the ones who are delivered from suffering and the ones who endure suffering?
    - What does this tell you about living by faith?
  - Why is it important from the outset to understand that your faith won't always protect you from worldly suffering – and that it may in fact lead to it?
  - In Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-46) Jesus asked for temporal (worldly, present) deliverance from the cross... what was God's answer? Was this because Jesus lacked faith?
- Pro of living by faith – assured eternal deliverance.
  - Even though some don't see the promised answered in this life – they can still expect them to be answered – why?
  - Read Matthew 28:5-6 – how was this a better answer to Jesus' Gethsemane prayer?