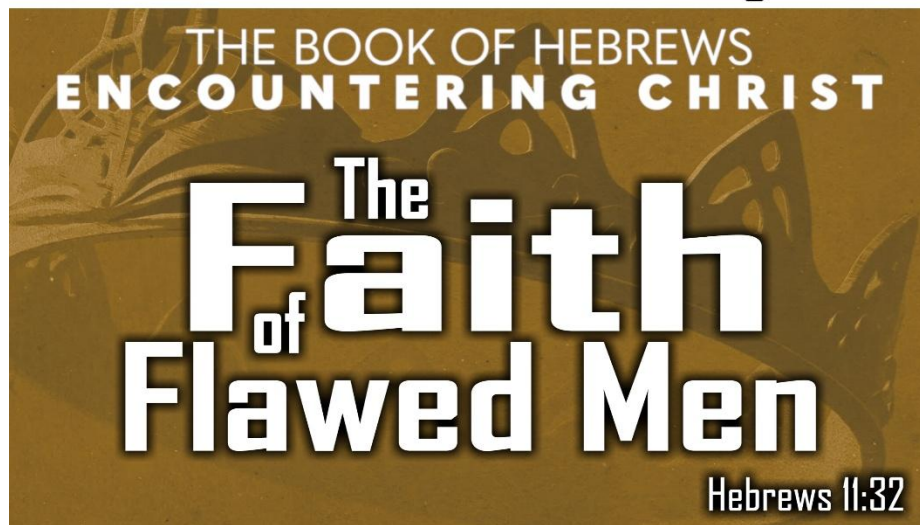




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ALL SCRIPTURES ARE PRINTED VERBATIM WITH TRANSLATIONS NOTED • CHAIR BIBLE PAGE # 176 (NT SECTION)

IN SOME PLACES, GOD'S WORD IS UNDERLINED WITH DOTS WITH PASTOR JOE'S COMMENTARY IN THE BRACKETED, LIGHTER FACED TEXT.

A. The Roll Call of Flawed Men of Faith

1. **Gideon**—Faith That Grew out of Fear.

- His story is found in **Judges 6-8**.
- God called this fearful man while he was hiding in a winepress.
- He constantly needed reassurance (answers, fleeces, signs).
- He eventually obeyed God with an army of only 300 men.
- **Faith is not the absence of fear—it is obedience despite fear.**

2. **Barak**—Faith That Grew Out of Insecurity.

- His story is found in **Judges 4-5**.
- He hesitated because he needed Deborah by his side.
- He acted in faith but only after being strengthened by others.
- He constantly spoke of his fears.
- **Faith sometimes needs a push—but God honors the step of faith.**

3. **Samson**—Faith That Grew out of Failure.

- His story is found in **Judges 13-16**.
- Samson's failures were legendary.
- His strength was God-given; his downfall was self-chosen.
- Yet in his final moment, he chose faith in God.
- **Faith can rise from the rubble of a failed and broken life.**

4. **Jephthah**—Faith That Grew out of Wounds/Ignorance.

- His story is found in **Judges 11-12**.
- Jephthah rises from rejection/family wounds to become a deliverer.
- He made a tragic vow.
- He was a mighty warrior but very impulsive.
- **Faith is not stopped by the mess you've made of your life.**

5. **David**—Faith for Giants but Grace for Sin.

- His story is found in **1 Sam. 14—2 Sam. 24, 1 Chron., and Psalms**.
- He trusted God as a young shepherd facing Goliath.
- He doubted, feared, and failed God many times in so many ways.
- He became Israel's greatest king by relying on faith in God.
- **Faith must lead you to repent and return fully following failure.**

6. **Samuel**—Faith That Grew Out of Loneliness.

- His story is found in **1 Samuel 1-15**.
- Samuel lived faithfully in a corrupt religious environment.
- He listened to God when others ignored him.
- He was alone in his life and faith.
- **Faith is not always dramatic, but it must be consistent.**

B. God Uses Imperfect People Who Trust Him

If God can use Gideon's fear, Barak's hesitation, Samson's failures, Jephthah's wounds, David's sins, and Samuel's loneliness—He can use you if you believe.

- Dr. Charles Swindoll

1. You don't have to be flawless, just faithful.

2. Unbelief disqualifies a person.

Every hero in Hebrews 11 had weaknesses.

None were disqualified by weakness—only by unbelief.

3. Faith is not a feeling, it's a decision.

4. Whatever you face or battle, faith in God will get you through it.

With her sister Betsie, frail and dying, Corrie whispered to her one night: There is no pit so deep that God's love is not deeper still. "Faith is the victory that overcomes the world!" (1 John 5:4)...our faith in Christ is stronger than the worst the world can do to us.

- Corrie ten Boom's autobiography, *The Hiding Place* (1971)