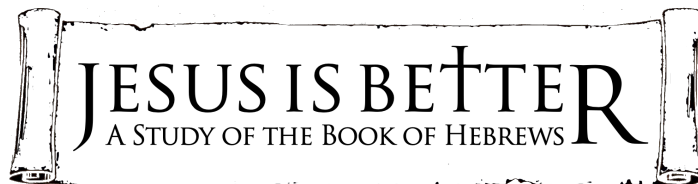


17: Living By Faith - part 3 (Heb 11:17-27)

When's the last time you obeyed God and did what was difficult instead of cowering to do what was comfortable? Today we are reminded how Old Testament titans of the faith trusted God with the future they couldn't see and consider how we can follow in their steps.



teachingnotes

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* All Scripture is from CSB (Christian Standard Bible) unless otherwise noted.

CATCH THE CONTEXT

Welcome to week 3 of Hebrews 11 - the Faith Hall of Fame - filled with Hebrew heroes who were *LIVING BY FAITH*.

BIG TRUTH: Genuine faith is living like God exists and God rewards those who seek Him. (from Heb 11:6)

Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, & Moses were NOT sinless. Their faith was NOT in themselves, but in the faithful God who forgave them and used them - even though they weren't always faithful.

Hebrews 11:17-19 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac. He received the promises and yet he was offering his one and only son, the one to whom it had been said, *Your offspring will be traced through Isaac* [Gen 21:12]. **He considered God to be able even to raise someone from the dead**; therefore, he received him back, figuratively speaking.

Abraham would obey God to sacrifice Isaac, remembering that God had promised Abraham's family would come from Isaac's family tree (Gen 21:12), so....somehow...some way...God's promises would prove true. **How?** Abraham had a thought that the Genesis text doesn't tell us about - God was **able even to raise someone from the dead**. After all, since God brought Isaac to life from Sarah's dead womb (Rom 4:17-18), God could raise Isaac back to life. The ancient audience (along with US) should be prompted to the fantastic truth that God has another raised from the dead the Lord JESUS!

Hebrews 11:20-22 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. **By faith** Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and *he worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff*. **By faith** Joseph, as he was nearing the end of his life, mentioned the exodus of the Israelites and gave instructions concerning his bones.

With death just over the horizon, then 3 trusted God's future promises as if they were **sure of what they hoped for and convinced of what they did not see** (Heb 11:1 NET). As was true with Abraham, the 3 promises God had made were not yet seen by any of them: 1) possession of the Promised Land 2) a great nation of their descendants 3) blessing many nations through their family.

🌟 **John MacArthur** writes:

They were so confident in God's word that they passed on the promises to their children. They believed what they had never seen, and they passed on what they had never seen to their children...They had not seen the land possessed, the nation established, or the world blessed, but they saw the promises, and that was enough.¹

TAKE SOME NOTES HERE!

¹ [John F. MacArthur Jr., Hebrews, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody Press, 1983), 338.]

Just before death...

- **By faith Isaac blessed Jacob** over Esau even though Jacob was NOT the firstborn. Isaac prophesied **concerning things to come** - Esau, the firstborn, would be under the family leadership of Jacob instead of the other way around (Gen 27:26-40). Note: The Hebrew people are not named after Esau, but after Jacob - whom God gave the name of "Israel".
- **By faith Jacob** blessed the sons of Joseph in one of the most tender pictures in all of Scripture. Close to death, Jacob summons all the strength he has to sit up in his bed and welcome his son Joseph who brought his 2 young sons to see their grandfather (Jacob - aka Israel).

Genesis 48:8-12 When Israel saw Joseph's sons, he said, "Who are these?" And Joseph said to his father, "They are my sons God has given me here." So Israel said, "Bring them to me and I will bless them." Now his eyesight was poor because of old age; he could hardly see. Joseph brought them to him, and he kissed and embraced them. Israel said to Joseph, "I never expected to see your face again, but now God has even let me see your offspring." Then Joseph took them from his father's knees and bowed with his face to the ground.

Jacob prayed a blessing on his son Joseph, and his 2 sons. But instead of giving the greater blessing to the oldest of the 2 sons (Manasseh), Jacob gave the greater blessing to the younger (Ephraim). **Jacob blessed them by faith** that the younger would be the leader (Genesis 48:17-20) - which after Jacob's death - became true.

- **By faith Joseph...mentioned the exodus** which was still over 400 years away (Acts 7:6)! At the end of Joseph's life he and his Hebrew family were treated well by the Pharaoh. But the Pharaohs that followed put Jacob (aka Israel) & Joseph's family into slavery for several generations! Although Joseph didn't know all the details of what was to come, he knew one thing...**God is faithful to fulfill His promises**. Joseph KNEW his people would one day return to the land God had promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Genesis 50:24-25 Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die, but **God will certainly come to your aid and bring you up from this land to the land he swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob**." So Joseph made the sons of Israel take an oath: "When God comes to your aid, you are to carry my bones up from here."

And that's exactly what they did about 400 years later when the Hebrews left Egypt ([Ex 13:19](#)).

Moses' Folks

Hebrews 11:23 **By faith** Moses, after he was born, was **hidden by his parents** for three months, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they didn't fear the king's edict.

Pharaoh had commanded the Hebrew midwives helping women giving birth to KILL any son that was born (Ex 1:15-16). But the Hebrew midwives "feared God" and refused to obey Pharaoh (Ex 1:17), making up a story that by the time they made it to the Hebrew women to help with the birthing process, they were already being held by Momma.

When Pharaoh's plan was thwarted, he came up with a new one.

Exodus 1:22 Pharaoh then commanded all his people, "You must throw every son born to the Hebrews into the Nile, but let every daughter live."

That's what faced the parents of Moses at the time of his birth, so this is why they hid the baby. But they couldn't hide him forever, so his mother got basket and coated it with a tar-like substance and put it in the Nile River, while Moses' sister followed where it went (read about it in Exodus 2). The little boy floated up on one of Pharaoh's daughters who recognized him as a Hebrew baby boy and felt sorry for him - knowing he would die if she didn't intervene.

Moses' sister walked up to Pharaoh's daughter and asked if she wanted to get a Hebrew woman to nurse the infant for her. And Moses' mother was hired to nurse her own child, and later bring Moses back to Pharaoh's daughter to live as her son. It was **Pharaoh's daughter who named him "Moses"** - meaning "drawn out" - as it "drawn out from the water" (Ex 2:10). Moses was raised in the royal family of Pharaoh and given the finest education (Acts 7:22) in the most wealthy, cultured, and advanced nation in the world.

TAKE SOME NOTES HERE!

Hebrews 11:24-25 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter and **chose to suffer with the people of God** rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasure of sin.

Instead of becoming a respected & wealthy leader in Egypt, Moses became public enemy #1 after killing a slave driver abusing a Hebrew slave (Ex 2:11-15). After 40 years a fugitive, God called Moses to return to Egypt and confront the next Pharaoh to let God's people go. And **by faith** - trusting what God said, Moses returned to Egypt to align himself with the Hebrews instead of the Egyptians he grew up with.

Moses no longer lived in one of Pharaohs plush palaces, but in the slave quarters of the Hebrew people. Moses had to confront the most powerful man in the world as an enemy...over and over again! Moses **chose to suffer with the people of God** rather than to **enjoy the fleeting pleasure of sin** that ultimately goes away. Moses, **by faith**, chose to obey God. Moses had genuine faith.

BIG TRUTH: Genuine faith is living like God exists and God rewards those who seek Him.

Moses was sure of what he hoped for, and convinced of what he could not yet see ([Heb 11:1](#) NET).

Hebrews 11:26 For he considered reproach for the sake of Christ to be greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, since he was looking ahead to the reward.

Moses lived about 1400 years before Jesus the **Christ** (Messiah) came to earth. How much did Moses know about the future Messiah? We simply don't know. There is another option - this term translated as "**Christ**" means "**anointed**" is referring to the Hebrew people as in Ps 89:50-51.

Psalms 89:50-51 Remember, Lord, the ridicule against your servants— in my heart I carry abuse from all the peoples— how your enemies have ridiculed, LORD, how they have ridiculed every step of Your **anointed**.

The author might be intending that **Moses considered reproach for the sake of God's anointed people** to be more valuable than the riches of Egypt. In this way, both Moses and Jesus exchanged glory for suffering to lead the Hebrew people out of slavery - both **looking ahead to the reward**.

Hebrews 11:27 By faith he left Egypt behind, not being afraid of the king's anger, for **Moses persevered as one who sees Him who is invisible**.

By Faith...Moses persevered even when tough times came...because He trusted **Him who is invisible**.

- When Pharaoh threatened him, **Moses persevered** - trusting God and **not being afraid of the king's anger**.
- When Pharaoh made things harder on the enslaved Hebrew people and his own people blamed Moses for the difficulty, **Moses persevered** - trusting God when everyone else was questioning him.

Moses persevered because he had genuine faith.

BIG TRUTH: Genuine faith is living like God exists and God rewards those who seek Him.

How about YOU?

TAKE SOME NOTES HERE!

FEET 2 FAITH

1. **Do you really believe God exists?** Write 5 evidences that demonstrate God's existence and/or ask others for their answers.
2. **Are you SEEKING God?** Write down at least 2 ways you are seeking God or SHOULD be seeking God. What material possessions or personal relationships are distracting you from seeking Jesus 1st?
3. **Give God the 1st part of your day** - Open the Scriptures and read at least 1 chapter day. Write down questions you have and insights you gain and share them with another person.

Living By Faith won't make sense to *everybody* on this side of eternity, but you won't face **EVERYBODY** when you die.

☀ **Baron Justinian von Weltz** renounced his title, estates, and income, and went to serve as a missionary to South America (Dutch Guiana). Today his body lies there in a lonely grave, forgotten by the world, but not forgotten by God.

As he was preparing to go into missionary service he said, "What is it to me to bear the title 'well-born,' when I am born again to Christ? What is it to me to have the title 'lord,' when I desire to be the servant of Christ? What is it to be called, 'your grace,' when I have need of God's grace? All these vanities I will away with and all else I will lay at the feet of my dear Lord Jesus."²

heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

- * Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Justin** (704-618-6144), **Christy** (673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!
- * Or call our **deacons & wives**: Alan & Christy Androski (464-1428), Steve & Debbie Bass (673-7952), Tim & Joni Hughey (464-1156), Mark & Dot Mancil (253-5405), Boss & Amelia Mulkey (464-6717), Jim & Derita Pinkard (464-6188), Fain & Linda Poppell (464-1282), or Tom & Martha Waddail (973-0011).

² John F. MacArthur Jr., Hebrews, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody Press, 1983), 350-351.