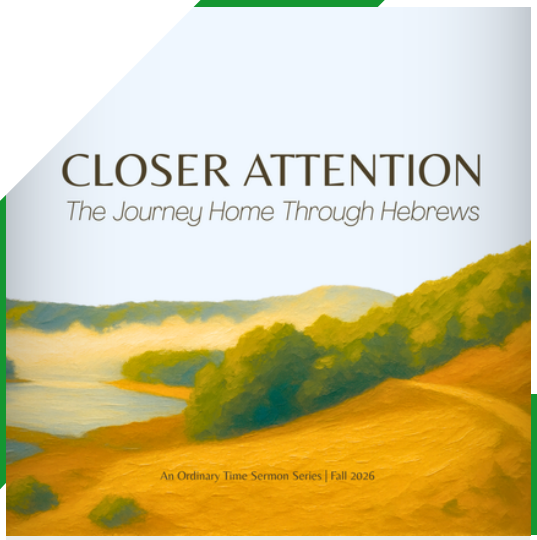


SERMON NOTES

October 25, 2026

SERMON INFO

TITLE

"The Endurance of Faith"

PREACHER

Rev. Josh Keller

TEXTS

Isaiah 40:25-31
Hebrews 11:1, 27-28, 11:32-12:3
Luke 9:43-48

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stories of those who have gone before you in faith help you endure in your own faith?
2. What situations make enduring feel most challenging?
3. What are some daily habits you use to set your vision on God? What are some habits you can add?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

This week, Josh continued examining the "Hall of Faith" in Hebrews chapter 11, which was written to address the concern of early Christians giving up at the finish line of faith. Even in our modern day, the temptation to give up before the race is done is still prevalent.

What Kind of Faith Endures?

We are addicted to a "plus" faith, the kind that doesn't take away from our lives but rather adds with abundant blessings. At the beginning of the Hall of Faith, it sounds like a list of "plus" faiths, from Abraham to Isaac to Jacob to Brak to Samson and more. These figures experience the big works of God, such as miraculous healings. But, at verse 35, the narrative changes, and the "minus" faith journeys are described. Shortly before the time of Christ, the Jewish people were mocked, tortured, and persecuted because of their devotion to the Lord, just as early Christians later experienced for their faith in the same God and his Son, Jesus Christ; these, too, are lauded in the Hall of Faith. Yet, both those who experienced the pluses and minuses are described as examples in faith. This tension prompts the question of what kind of faith endures. A helpful framework to answer this question is distinguishing between trusting in God himself and trusting in what God does. The latter cannot endure the minuses because disappointment at God adhering to his plan rather than our own agendas is inevitable. Isaiah 40 shows a rebuke of the people of Israel because of their disappointment in God's work, work that countered their expectations. Making them think that God failed them. Along with the rebuke is a reminder from the prophet about who God is. While knowing God's character is helpful, we may still find ourselves hesitant. Understanding that God himself can endure the same minus moments we experience provides comfort and encouragement. Thankfully, God does endure. In fact, Jesus isn't merely unexempt from minus moments but embraces them because of the joy set before him. This joy was the hope of God's ultimate plan of redemption of humanity; that we may be counted as God's, that we can have God's presence as he has ours.

How Does That Faith Endure?

With this enduring faith, we are called to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on the joy set before us, on the eternal redemption in Christ, despite the times when a fog clouds our vision and endurance seems impossible. Practically speaking, we can apply this enduring faith by ensuring our vision is properly focused; coming to worship sets our vision for the week, and reading Scripture can set our vision for the day. We do this so that even when the fog of the world, temptation to sin, and other negative voices try to drown out the good promises of God, we remember the truth. When we recall the promises of God and those who have gone before us in faith, trusting in those same promises, we are strengthened and encouraged by those with a clearer vision. With a clearer vision, we are able to cast aside every weight. Sin inhibits a deeper life, one that foregoes joy, but we see in Jesus and those in the Hall of Faith that those who resist their sin experience joy. While Jesus had no sin, he still experienced shame; however, he "despised the shame." This counter-cultural perspective is how he was able to go to the cross. The cross could've been the greatest shame, but it was what resulted in the salvation of the world. How could that be shameful? He despises the shame and doesn't listen to the lies of the world so that his vision is clear. We must follow in his footsteps because Jesus shows us that freedom, forgiveness, joy, and more are on the other side of shame. While it may feel challenging to ask for help, to resist sin, and to confess sin, doing so with those in our lives helps one another endure and live in the joy set before us.