

## Heb 11:32-40 Heroes of the Faith

- I. Introduction:** The author of Hebrews commended Israel's heroes for the victories they saw God accomplish through faith, and their willingness to suffer on account of their faith.
- II. Heroes of the Faith (Heb 11:32-40).**
- A. Faith Experiences Victories (vv. 32-34).
1. The author of Hebrews encouraged his Jewish audience to pattern their lives after the faith of their great heroes, who witnessed God accomplish miraculous feats.
- B. Faith Endures Sufferings (vv. 35-38).
1. The author praised the faith of those who held onto their faith in God despite the great suffering and persecution they endured for their beliefs.
- C. Faith Expects Promises (vv. 39-40).
1. The author of Hebrews argued that the saints of the Old Testament were approved of by faith, and still lived in expectation of God's future glorious promises.
- III. Conclusion:** The author encouraged his Jewish audience to live by faith, just like the heroes of the Old Testament who received God's approval by trusting in His promises.

## **Study Questions: Heroes of the Faith**

1. Who are your heroes? Who does God approve of in this world? Do you put your trust in God or men? Do you please God? How do you know if you please Him or not? (**Heb 11:39-40**)
2. Who are the Jewish heroes that the author concludes this chapter recounting? (**Heb 11:32**) What do you know about the faith of Gideon? Sampson? Jephthah? David? Samuel? The prophets?
3. Who conquered kingdoms by faith? (**Heb 11:32-34**) Who obtained the promises by faith? (**Josh 21:43-45**) Who shut the mouths of lions? (**Dan 6**) Who quenched the power of fire? (**Dan 3**)
4. What did the author of Hebrews want his audience to conclude? (**Heb 11:32-34**) Does God sometimes deliver His people from disaster? Why does He deliver people from harm?
5. How does God give believers faith to endure suffering? (**Heb 11:35-38**) Who were the ones that were tortured? (**v. 35; Jer 29:26; 37:15; 38:6-13**) Mocked and scourged? (**1 Kings 22:24-28**)
6. Who did Jewish tradition say was stoned? (**v. 36**) Sawn in two? (**v. 36**) Who was put to death by the sword? (**v. 36; 1 Kings 18:4, 13; 19:10**) What does it tell you about God's sovereignty?
7. What was God's assessment of their faith? (**Heb 11:38-40**) How did these heroes gain His approval? (**v. 39**) Why did they not receive God's promises? (**v. 39**)
8. What is the main theme of Hebrews 11? (**Heb 11:1-40**) How can you know that you can please God? (**vv. 39-40**) Do you trust God no matter if times are good or bad? Will you trust in Jesus?

### **Prayer**

1. Pray that God might cause you to trust in Him when you need Him to deliver you from trouble.
2. Pray that God might help you to believe in Him when you need perseverance in suffering.