

Sermon Notes 3/16/25

## **“Faith in Action” (part 7)**

## **“Fe en acción” (parte 7)**

**How do we put our faith into action?  
¿Cómo ponemos nuestra fe en acción?**

1. Let's depend on the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.  
Dependamos del \_\_\_\_\_ de Dios.

Hebrews 11:33-34 (Hebreos 11:33-34)

Ephesians 1:18-21 (Efesios 1:18-21)

2 Timothy 1:7-8 (2 Timoteo 1:7-8)

2. Let's trust the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.  
Confiemos en los \_\_\_\_\_ de Dios.

Hebrews 11:36-37 (Hebreos 11:36-37)

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 (2 Corintios 12:7-10)

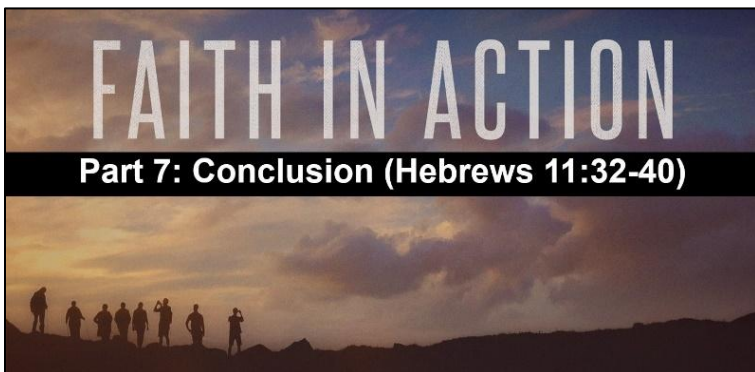
Proverbs 3:5-6 (Proverbios 3:5-6)

3. Let's connect with the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.  
Conectémonos con el \_\_\_\_\_ de Dios.

Hebrews 11:39-40 (Hebreos 11:39-40)

Acts 2:42-47 (Hechos 2:42-47)

Hebrews 10:24-25 (Hebreos 10:24-25)



# Life Group Discussion Questions

**Week 21: March 16-23**

**Hebrews 11:32-40**

Hebrews 11:32-40 is the grand conclusion to the great Hall of Faith in the Bible. In addition to the twelve people of faith the author mentioned in the first 31 verses, he names 6 more but doesn't tell us their stories. Instead, he reminds us that the list continues to grow as God's people continue to put their faith into action. Many of these people faced difficult trials and even died for their faith. These powerful examples of people who were faithful unto death can encourage us and inspire us to persevere in our faith. As we follow their example by living out our faith in Christ, we continue to expand the great Hall of Faith.

Kent Hughes writes,

This chapter was composed by the preacher/writer with the hope of steeling the tiny, expatriate Hebrew church against the persecution that was mounting against them and was soon to fall in the genocidal waves of horror orchestrated by the mad emperor Nero. And, indeed, those who did persevere did so because of their profound faith in the promises of God's Word. So, we must understand that Hebrews 11 was not just an entertaining and inspiring aside but was essential life-and-death teaching for the Hebrew church. It may well be the same for us and our children. (Hughes, 375)

## **Read Hebrews 11:32-40**

1. Who were the people of faith mentioned in verse 32?

Most of us can relate to someone in Hebrews 11. None of the people in this chapter were perfect examples of faith. Like us, they struggled with failures, fears, sinful temptations, foolish decisions, and family problems. But God took the faith they had and used it to accomplish great things. The stories of the first four people in verse 32 are recorded in the book of Judges. The life of David is recorded in 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 Chronicles. And the life of Samuel is recorded in 1 Samuel.

2. Why did the author decide not to tell us about these people? (11:32)

3. Who were the people of faith that the author mentioned by name in verses 1-31?

4. According to verse 33, what did these people accomplish by faith?
5. According to verse 34, what did these people accomplish by faith?
6. What happened to the women in verse 35?

Jim Girdwood and Peter Verkruijse write,

Elijah gave a son back to the widow of Zarephath (1 Kgs 17:7-24). Elisha brought the Shunammite's son back to life (2 Kgs 4:8-37). Jesus resurrected an only child and gave him back to his widowed mother (Luke 7:12-17). In Lazarus' resurrection account we only read of the two sisters left in the family, Martha and Mary (John 11). (Girdwood and Verkruijse, 388)

7. What happened to those who were being tortured in verse 35?

Charles Swindoll observes,

After presenting this parade of faithful people, the author then presents a colorful tableau of events illustrating great feats of faith (11:33–38). However, this faith medley transitions in the middle of 11:35 from major chords to a minor key—from triumphs of the faithful to tragedies of the faithful. The first category is an awe-inspiring mountain range jutting triumphantly skyward ... the second category is like a precipitous slide into dark valleys of seeming defeat. (188)

8. What kind of persecution did the people in verse 36 face?
9. How did the author describe the executions in verse 37?
10. What kind of clothing and homes did some of God's people have when they were being persecuted? (11:37-38)

Hughes comments,

So much for the prosperity gospel! Here are saints who are so holy and so full of faith that the world is not worthy to contain them, and yet they are called to persevere in persecution, deprivation, and death. Not only that, but the reason they are able to persevere is their great faith! Christians under the oppressive old paganism of Roman culture were to take note, and so must we in the darkening neo-paganism of our day. (Hughes, 381)

11. What does the author mean when he says, “the world was not worthy of them”? (11:38)
12. Even though they were commended for their faith, what did they not receive? (11:39)
13. What does God have planned for us that is better than anything else? (11:40)
14. Why couldn't the people in the Old Testament be made perfect apart from us? (11:40; 10:1, 11-14)

Swindoll notes,

Approval was granted—not because of their personal merit, their pedigrees, or their perfection, but because of their faith. In the midst of lives of triumph and tragedy, they longed to see the unseen, to catch a glimpse of the future. And with the eyes of faith, they saw the Lord Jesus Christ—the One who is superior for pressing on. They lived by a faith that looked into the distant future when the promises of perfection would finally be fulfilled. (Swindoll, 189)

15. Which individual in Hebrews 11 are you most interested in talking to when you get to heaven? Why?
16. Which individual in Hebrews 11 do you find the most encouraging to your faith? Why?
17. Why do you think God allows people of faith to be persecuted?
18. How can we put our faith into action when we are being mistreated?
19. What can you do to encourage someone who is struggling in their faith?
20. How will you put your faith into action this week?

**Sources cited:**

Girdwood, Jim and Peter Verkruyse. *Hebrews*. College Press, 1997.  
Hughes, R. Kent. *Hebrews: An Anchor for the Soul*. Crossway, 2015.  
Swindoll, Charles. *Insights on Hebrews*. Tyndale, 2017.