



## Message 6 | By Faith They Paved the Way

Text | Hebrews 11:32-12:1a

**Spotlight:** The faith of those who came before us is not just a testimony—it's a torch. We run because they walked by faith.

**Summary:** As the “Hall of Faith” closes, the writer of Hebrews reminds us that all these faithful men and women died without receiving the fullness of what was promised, but they did not live in vain. **Their faithful lives paved the way for us.** These heroes of faith are now part of the “great cloud of witnesses.” They are cheering us on as we run our own race.

This sermon bridges Hebrews 11 and 12, drawing attention to the generational nature of faith, the value of spiritual legacy, and the responsibility we now carry to live with the same kind of perseverance. Faith is not just personal—it's generational, missional, and communal.

“You're not the first to run this race—and you're not running alone.”

Hebrews 11 is full of faith runners. Hebrews 12 is where we take the baton and run our leg.

### 1. By Faith, All These People Focused on All that God had Promised (v. 39 – They were commended)

- Their faithful focus paved the way for us
- They didn't receive what was promised in their lifetime but they kept their eyes on the prize.
- Their faith was valid, vital and victorious.
- Earthly results don't determine eternal significance.
- Keep your eyes on the prize - (Philippians 3:14 ~ 1 Corinthians 9:24-25 ~ 2 Timothy 4:8 ~ Hebrews 12:2a)

## 2. By Faith, **All These People Left a Connecting Legacy** (v. 40 – God had something better for us)

- Their story isn't complete without ours.
- We owe a debt of gratitude to them. They have a vested interest in our faithfulness.
- God's redemptive plan spans generations.
- We are connected to the faith of the past—and responsible for the future.

## 3. By Faith, **All These People Inspire our Leg of the Race** (12:1a – “Therefore... surrounded by such a great cloud”)

- The “cloud of witnesses” isn't an audience as much as an example.
- They're not watching us as spectators—they're encouraging us as fellow runners.
- You are not alone. Others have suffered, endured and remained faithful before you.
- Who is watching you? Who are you influencing? How are you influencing others? What are some ways you can intentionally influence others by faith, to trust Jesus?

### **Life Application Discussion Questions**

1. Take time to reflect on who handed the baton of faith to you. Thank God for them.
2. Ask yourself: Who am I influencing? Who will carry faith forward because of me?
3. Pray for strength to run your leg of the race with endurance and faithfulness.
4. Who are the faithful “witnesses” in your life whose example continues to inspire you?
5. In what ways are you tempted to measure faith by immediate results instead of long-term obedience?
6. How are you paving the way for those who come after you in the faith?
7. What specific steps can you take this week to run faithfully in light of those who went before you?