



Message 5 | By Faith They Faced Evil & Death

Text | Hebrews 11:31-38

Spotlight: Faith doesn't always lead to earthly deliverance—but it always results in eternal victory.

Summary: This portion of Hebrews 11 highlights a difficult but necessary truth: some heroes of the faith conquered kingdoms and escaped death, while others were tortured, imprisoned, or martyred. Both outcomes—miraculous deliverance and faithful suffering—are seen as victories in God's eyes.

From Rahab, the prostitute who believed and was spared, to unnamed saints who were sawn in two, God honors faith that endures even when the cost is everything. This sermon challenges our view of success and calls the church to stand firm in the face of evil and death, knowing that our hope is eternal.

“What if faith doesn't make life easier—but harder?”

The world isn't worthy of those who live by faith even when it costs them everything (Hebrews 11:38).

1. By Faith, the Lost and the Least are Saved (v. 31 – Rahab)

- Rahab, a Gentile and prostitute, believed—and was saved.
- God honors faith, not pedigree.
- Faith says: Your past does not define your future.

2. By Faith, Victory over Evil is Possible (vv. 32–35a – the conquerors)

- Gideon, Barak, Samson, David... flawed people used by a flawless God.
- They “shut the mouths of lions” and “escaped the sword”—faith was strong in action.
- But even in victory, their strength came from weakness (dependence on God almighty) (v. 34).

3. By Faith, **Death is Not Defeated** (vv. 35b–38 – the sufferers)

- Others refused deliverance, choosing resurrection over rescue.
- Tortured, stoned, sawn in two... yet God honored their faith just as much.
- Death has been defeated
- These unnamed martyrs are not forgotten in heaven—even if they are by the world.

Next Steps

- **Reframe** what you define as success: Is it comfort, or is it obedience?
- **Prepare** your heart for faithfulness in hardship—not just in blessing.
- **Pray** for the persecuted church and ask God to make you bold.

Life Application Discussion Questions

1. In what ways are we tempted to define faith by results instead of obedience?
2. What part of your story feels too broken for God to redeem—like Rahab? How does her example encourage you?
3. Are you willing to follow Jesus even when it costs you dearly?
4. How can your faith or the faith of the saints encourage someone else going through a dark valley?