

8-20-2023, COTR Texarkana

Title: Faith Endures; Faith Receives, pt-8

Purpose: Provoke people to change their world by following the example of Moses' faith and obedience.

Truth for Today: Moses shows us how a person who believes and obeys God can change world history.

Text: Hebrews 11:22-29

Topic: Faith, Moses, Obedience, Fear, Pharaoh

Series Title: Faith Endures; Faith Receives

Series purpose: Provoke people to have faith in God that is aligned with His will so we can obediently endure difficulty and receive what He promises in His timing.

Series Truth for Today: Faith that endures becomes faith that receives God's promise.

Faith Endures; Faith Receives, pt-8

- I. Introduction (vacation & wedding; new series in Sept., "You're Best life...Now")
 - A. Review series: Faith Endures; Faith Receives, a vs. by vs. study of Heb. 11. Heb. 11 contains some of the most inspiring accounts of people in world history because of their faith in God. Their faith enabled them to endure difficulty and receive God's promises. Pic chain Faith is the way we connect with God; faith means to believe or trust God and act in obedience; faith aligned with God's will is a spiritual fact.
 - B. Last time we saw how Joseph changed the world. Today we'll talk about Moses, one of the greatest men in the Bible. His faith and obedience changed the world.
 - C. Title: Faith Endures; Faith Receives, pt-8
- II. 400 years is a long time to wait
 - A. [Hebrews 11:22–29 (NLT) It was by faith that **Joseph**, when he was about to die, said confidently that the **people of Israel would leave Egypt.**]Overview: Abe, Isaac Jacob
 1. From the time Israel arrived in Egypt during the famine till the time they returned to the Promised land was about 400 years. Tension: God makes a promise, e.g., Abraham, and we may wait a long time, maybe a lifetime to see it fulfilled. Sometimes we may even die while waiting. [Hebrews 11:39 (ESV) And all these, though **commended through their faith**, did not receive what was promised.]

2. Life App #1: Don't let the wait shake our faith in God. God's timetable may be different from ours; faith in God enables us to endure while we're waiting.

III. Faith can be risky

1. [Vs. ²³ It was **by faith** that Moses' parents hid him for three months when he was born. They saw that God had given them an unusual (*beautiful*¹) child, and **they were not afraid to disobey the king's command.**] Moses's parents' faith caused them to face opposition and hostility if they disobeyed Pharaoh's laws to kill all male children¹. Their faith gave birth to one of the greatest men in world history.
2. Life App #2: Our faith in God will affect generations to come.
3. They disobeyed a government order.² When is civil disobedience appropriate for a Christian? Context, [Acts 5:27–29 (NLT)...they brought the apostles before the high council...²⁸ "We gave you **strict orders** never again to teach in this man's (*Jesus*) name!"...²⁹ But Peter and the apostles replied, "**We must obey God rather than any human authority.**] Christians have a God-given and constitutionally protected right, 1st Amend., to disobey the government when the laws of man conflict with the laws of God. E.g., dr. and abortion or a minister is required to perform a same sex marriage ceremony. Pic Coach Kennedy
4. Life App #3: Sometimes our faith in God will cause us to resist unlawful authority

IV. Moses's faith made him reject pleasure and comfort and choose hardship

- A. [Vs. ²⁴ It was by faith that Moses, when he grew up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. ²⁵ **He chose to share the oppression of God's people instead of enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin.** ²⁶ He thought it was **better to suffer for the sake of Christ (*the Messiah*³)** than to own the treasures of Egypt, for **he was looking ahead to his great reward.**]
1. Moses was Pharaoh's adopted grandson with all the privileges.² However, the pagan, idolatrous ways of Egypt was opposite from the one, true God. He had a choice to make; follow God or the ways of the world.
 2. Life App. #4: Faith makes us choose between God's ways and the world's ways or sometimes personal desire. Our choice reveals what we really believe.
 3. '*The fleeting pleasures of sin and the treasures of Egypt*' are the same for us today. [1 John 2:15–17 (NLT) **Do not love this world nor the**

things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. ¹⁶ For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions...¹⁷ And this **world is fading away**, along with everything that people crave. But **anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.**] Moses's faith made him choose to give up pleasure and fortune when the means to obtain it conflicted with his faith. He chose to sacrifice and suffer instead; So, should we.

4. [Matthew 16:24–26 (NLT) ²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be **my follower**, you must **give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.** ²⁵ If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you **give up your life for my sake**, you will save it. ²⁶ And what do you benefit if you **gain the whole world but lose your own soul**? Is anything worth more than your soul? (NIV) ²⁷ For the Son of Man...will **reward** each person according to what they have done.]

V. Faith is in a battle against fear.

A. [Vs. ²⁷ It was **by faith** that Moses left the land of Egypt, **not fearing the king's anger. He kept right on going because he kept his eyes on the one who is invisible.**] ALT. “Because Moses trusted God, he left Egypt; he was not afraid of the king who was angry” or “... he was not afraid even though the king was angry.”²

1. This likely refers to Moses leading Israel out of Egypt, not running away earlier.
2. It was Moses' faith which not only made him leave Egypt but made it possible for him to be unafraid of the king's anger.
3. Life App #5: Our faith in God's intervention helps us obey God and win the battle against fear.

B. [*“he kept his eyes on the one who is invisible”* ALT “he held on to the one whom he did not see, **as if he saw him.**”²] We can see the handiwork of God in creation and world events but, though we have never seen Him, we still believe in Him. Context suffering, [1 Peter 1:7–9 (NLT)... These **trials will show that your faith is genuine...** ⁸ **You love him even though you have never seen him...**you trust him...⁹ The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls.]

VI. There is spiritual power in the blood of OT sacrifices and the blood of Jesus

A. [Vs. ²⁸ It was **by faith** that Moses commanded the people of Israel to keep the **Passover and to sprinkle blood on the doorposts so that the angel of death would not kill their firstborn sons.**] Overview; Last of 10 plagues
1. Life App #6: There is power in the blood to protect and save from judgment. [Exodus 12:13 (NIV) The blood (*of a lamb*) will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and **when I see the blood, I will pass over you.** No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.] [John 1:29 (NLT) The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look! **The Lamb of God** who takes away the sin of the world!”] Jesus was crucified during Passover feast.

VII. Obedience motivated by faith opens the door for God to intervene.

A. [Vs. ²⁹ It was **by faith** that the people of Israel went right through the Red Sea as though they were on dry ground. But when the Egyptians tried to follow, they were all drowned.] Exodus 14, Picture Red Sea, Trapped and afraid, Moses lifted staff and waters parted

1. Life App #7: Faith can open the door to miracles in ‘impossible’ situations. Faith is expressed by our obedience to God.

VIII. Conclusion: Moses was not always a great man of faith. He was once paralyzed by fear.

A. Moses’ excuses, Exodus 3, at the burning bush at Mt. Sinai. [Ex. 3 (NLT) ⁸ **So I have come down to rescue them...** ¹⁰ **Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh...** ¹¹ **But Moses protested to God...Who am I** to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?”...” 4 (NLT)...¹³ **But Moses again pleaded, “Lord, please! Send anyone else.”**

B. Life. App.# 8: Even great people of faith struggle with doubt and obeying God. It’s not always easy to have faith in God. Difficult situations, facts and past experiences are a magnet to fear. Fear has power to paralyze. But faith believes God and acts. Moses was rewarded for his faith and obedience; so, will we.

IX. Response

A. Prayer

B. Souls

X. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

1. Hodges, Z. C. (1985). [Hebrews](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, pp. 808–809). Victor Books.
2. Ellingworth, P., & Nida, E. A. (1994). [A handbook on the Letter to the Hebrews](#) (p. 271). United Bible Societies.
3. Greek-English Lexicon, Arndt...

XI. Supplemental Material

- A. *To suffer with God's people* may be expressed as “to suffer in a way in which God's people were suffering.” *To suffer* may be translated “to experience pain” or “to be pained.”²
- B. Who is “the Christ” in this context? In Psalm 89:51 “the Christ” (RS¹V “anointed”) is probably God's *servant* or *chosen king*. In translating Hebrews the usual equivalent for “Messiah” or “God's chosen one” should be used: *Messiah* or “God's Anointed” (NE²B), or “God's promised king,” rather than “*the Christ*” (RS³V) or “Christ,” as in GeC⁴L and most older translations. The idea of Moses suffering insults directly for the sake of Jesus is unnecessarily difficult.²
- C. Commentators discuss whether this verse refers to (a) Moses' running away from Egypt after killing an Egyptian (see Exo 2:11–15), or (b) the exodus of Israel as a whole from Egypt (see Exo 12:51). This problem affects the translation of the second part of the verse, especially *he refused to turn back*. The difficulty with (a) is that Exodus 2:14 says that Moses was afraid, and verse 15 states that Pharaoh tried to kill him. The difficulty with (b) is that the Israelites, as distinct from Moses himself, are not mentioned in this passage until verses 28–29. Mf⁵t's solution is to take verse 27 as referring to Exodus 2, but as modifying or explaining Exodus 2:14: “It was by faith that he left Egypt—not from any fear of the king's wrath.”
- D. Older German translations (L⁶u and Zü⁷r) link Moses' endurance directly with seeing the invisible: “he held on to the one whom he did not see, as if he saw him.”²

¹RSV Revised Standard Version

²NEB New English Bible

³RSV Revised Standard Version

⁴GeCL German common language translation

⁵Mft Moffatt, *The Bible: A New Translation*

⁶Lu Luther, *Revidierter Text*

⁷Zür Zürcher Bibel

- E. It is implied that Moses showed his trust in God, and therefore his belief in Israel's future, by obeying God's instructions. Here, as usual, faith is forward-looking and is expressed in active obedience to God.²
- F. Moses was undeterred by fear of **the king's anger**. By keeping **the Passover**, which included **the sprinkling of blood**, the nation avoided God's judgment. In the same way, the readers should not be afraid of human wrath and should maintain their separateness from the surrounding world. They should persist in the worship experience made possible by the blood of the New Covenant. If they would do so, they would not fall under divine retribution (cf. 10:19–31).¹
- G. Exodus 14 (NLT) ¹ Then the Lord gave these instructions to Moses: ² “Order the Israelites to turn back and camp by Pi-hahiroth between Migdol and the sea...⁴ And ...Pharaoh...will chase after you. I have planned this in order to display my glory through Pharaoh and his whole army...⁸ The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, so he chased after the people of Israel, who had left with fists raised in defiance...¹⁰ As Pharaoh approached, the people of Israel looked up and panicked when they saw the Egyptians overtaking them. They cried out to the Lord,¹¹ and they said to Moses, “Why did you bring us out here to die in the wilderness?...¹³ But Moses told the people, “Don't be afraid. Just stand still and watch the Lord rescue you today...¹⁶ **Pick up your staff and raise your hand over the sea. Divide the water so the Israelites can walk through the middle of the sea on dry ground...**²³ Then the Egyptians—all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and charioteers—chased them into the middle of the sea. ²⁴ But just before dawn the Lord...threw their forces into total confusion. ²⁵ He twisted their chariot wheels, making their chariots difficult to drive...²⁶ When all the Israelites had reached the other side, the Lord said to Moses, “Raise your hand over the sea again. Then the waters will rush back and cover the Egyptians and their chariots and charioteers.”...²⁸ Then the waters returned and covered...the entire army of Pharaoh. Of all the Egyptians who had chased the Israelites into the sea, not a single one survived. ²⁹ But the people of Israel had walked through the middle of the sea on dry ground, as the water stood up like a wall on both sides...³¹ When the people of Israel saw the mighty power that the Lord had unleashed against the Egyptians, they were filled with awe before him. They put their **faith in the Lord** and in his servant Moses.

H. Moses' excuses, Exodus 3 (NLT) ¹ **One day** Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law...He...came to Sinai, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a blazing fire from the middle of a bush...⁷ Then the LORD told him, "I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their cries of distress because of their harsh slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. ⁸ So **I have come down to rescue them...**¹⁰ **Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh.** You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt."¹¹ **But Moses protested to God, "Who am I to appear before Pharaoh? Who am I to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?"**...¹³ **But Moses protested,** "If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' **they will ask me, 'What is his name?'** Then **what should I tell them?...**²⁰ So I will raise my hand and strike the Egyptians, performing all kinds of miracles among them. Then at last he will let you go. ²¹ And I will cause the Egyptians to look favorably on you. They will give you gifts when you go so you will not leave empty-handed. ²² Every Israelite woman will ask for articles of silver and gold and fine clothing from her Egyptian neighbors and from the foreign women in their houses. You will dress your sons and daughters with these, stripping the Egyptians of their wealth." 4 (NLT) ¹ **But Moses protested again,** "What if they won't believe me or listen to me? What if they say, 'The Lord never appeared to you?'"...¹⁰ **But Moses pleaded with the Lord, "O Lord, I'm not very good with words.** I never have been, and I'm not now, even though you have spoken to me. I get tongue-tied, and my words get tangled."¹¹ ...¹³ **But Moses again pleaded, "Lord, please! Send anyone else."**

I. Life App: While we're waiting for God to fulfill His promise, God can bless us. [Exodus 1:12 (ESV) But the more they were oppressed, the more they **multiplied** and the more they spread abroad.] They grew from 70 to 2 million. Waiting is hard; sometimes it involves suffering, persecution, or oppression but faith keeps us following God and God can bless us like He did Joseph in prison