

Pastor John Miller, 06-13-2026, COTR Texarkana

Title: What Would I Do If...I Needed Faith to Receive or Endure?

Purpose: Provoke people to deepen their faith in God to (1) receive His promises and answers to prayer and (2) to endure difficulties and disappointments.

Truth for Today: A deepening faith in God allows us to (1) receive His promises and answers to prayer and (2) endure difficulties and disappointments.

Topic: Discipleship, Faith, Test, Endurance, Difficulties

Text: Hebrews 11:1

Series title: What Would I Do If...

Series purp.: Provoke people to follow God's will, God's Word and the Holy Spirit above all else

What Would I Do If...I Needed Faith to Receive or Endure?

I. Introduction

- A. What is faith? [Heb. 11:1 (ESV) **Now faith is** the assurance (*NLT reality*) of things hoped for, the conviction (*NLT evidence*) of things not seen.] PJ Def. Faith is believing God is, can, and will. Today we'll see faith in God is at the heart of the Christian life. We're saved by faith, we receive the promises of God by faith, we have faith God will answer prayer, and we endure difficulties and disappointments by faith.
- B. Review series: "What Would I Do If...". Title: What Would I Do If...I Needed Faith to Receive or Endure? Today we'll look at a list of some of the greatest men and women who ever lived, the heroes of faith in Hebrews 11.***We'll pay special attention to how we respond to the tension when faith doesn't produce what we want.

II. Faith receives (Historical record of miracles that happened in response to faith in God's promise)

- A. Pic Faith sandwich, ch. 10-11-12, [Hebrews 11 (NLT) **And it is impossible to please God without faith.** Anyone who wants to come to him must **believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.** ⁷ (1) It was by faith that **Noah** built a large boat to save his family from the flood. **He obeyed** God, who warned him about things that had never happened before...¹¹ (2) It was by faith that even **Sarah** was able to have a child, though she was barren and was too old. **She believed that God would keep his promise...**¹³ ...²³ (3) 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 child, and **they were not afraid to disobey the king's command...**³¹ (4) It was by faith that **Rahab** the prostitute was not destroyed with the people...who refused to obey God. For she had given a **friendly welcome to the spies.** ³² (5)...It would take too long to recount the stories of the **faith of Gideon...Samson...David, Samuel, and all the prophets.** ³³ By faith these people **overthrew kingdoms, ruled with justice, and received** (*Def: implies some activity, not mere passive receiving*) **what God had promised them. They shut the mouths of lions,** ³⁴ **quenched the flames of fire, and escaped death by the edge of the sword.** Their weakness was turned to strength. They became strong in battle and put whole armies to flight. ³⁵ **Women received their loved ones back again from death.** (*Elijah widow's son*)
- B. Life App #1: Reasons they received miracles and promises from God: (1) They all chose to have faith in God; They all believed God existed and He was able to do what

He promised and would answer their prayers. (2) They all acted on what they believed, e.g. Moses' parents. (3) They took risks, e.g. Rahab. (4) They had their faith tested, e.g. Sarah (5) They obeyed God and did what God told them to do, e.g. Noah. (6) They kept their eye (and mind) on God, not the circumstances, e.g. Moses.²⁷...He kept right on going because **he kept his eyes on the one who is invisible.**

III. Sometimes faith doesn't stop bad things from happening.

A. [Heb. 11:35–39 (NLT)]³⁵...**But** others were **tortured**, refusing to turn from God in order to be set free. **They placed their hope in a better life after the resurrection.**³⁶ Some were **jeered** at...Others were **chained in prisons.**³⁷ Some **died by stoning**, some were **sawed in half**...Some went about...**destitute and...mistreated.**³⁸ They were **too good for this world**, wandering over deserts and mountains, **hiding in caves and holes in the ground.**³⁹ All these people **earned a good reputation because of their faith, yet none of them received all that God had promised.]**

1. Life App #2: Sometimes faith doesn't stop bad things from happening and prayers aren't answered but faith enabled them and us to endure, when we don't receive.
2. Life App #3: When faith is tested and prayer doesn't stop the difficulty or disappointment, don't stop believing. Keep our eyes on our heavenly reward. We may 'feel' like giving up; DON'T! Faith enables us to receive but also endure!

IV. Faith endures (Godly people who were able to endure difficulty and disappointment because of faith in God)

A. **Pic** Faith Sandwich, Context: facing difficulties and disappointment with faith. [Heb. 10:32–39 (NLT)] Think back on those early days when you first learned about Christ. Remember how **you remained faithful even though it meant terrible suffering.**³³...you were exposed to public ridicule and were beaten, and sometimes you helped others who were suffering the same things.³⁴...and when **all you owned was taken from you, you accepted it with joy. You knew there were better things waiting for you that will last forever.**³⁵ So **do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord.** Remember the **great reward** it brings you!³⁶ **Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised.**³⁷ "For in just a **little while**, the **Coming One** will come...³⁸ And my righteous ones will **live by faith...**]

B. Life App #4: Faith gives us the ability to have patient endurance and stay faithful to God when we face difficulties and disappointment.

C. Life App #5: Difficulties and disappointment may be on the path of doing God's will, but hard times won't last. Jesus is coming and will reward our faithfulness.

V. Conclusion: Keep your eyes on Jesus no matter what happens.

A. **Pic** faith sandwich, [Heb. 12:1–3 (NLT)] Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a **huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith...let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.**² **We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus...**Because of the **joy awaiting him, he endured the cross...**³ **Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up.**

B. Faith in God is at the heart of the Christian life. We're saved by faith, we receive the promises of God by faith, we pray in faith believing God will answer prayer, and we

endure difficulties by faith. One day, God will say to the faithful, ‘well done good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of the Lord’.

VI. Response

- A. Prayer: It’s hard to keep strong faith because of a difficulty you’re facing?
- B. Souls: Do you have a relationship with God that helps you face difficulties? We all can but 1st we’ve got to deal with (1) Our Problem (2)God’s Solution (3)Our Decision

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

- 1. Ellingworth, P., & Nida, E. A. (1994). [*A handbook on the Letter to the Hebrews*](#) (p. 279). United Bible Societies.

VIII. Supplemental material

- A. *Received* translates a word which implies some activity, not mere passive receiving. Many translations have “obtained,” but JB’s “earned” is too strong; BJ has “obtained the fulfillment of the promises.”¹
- B. Survey, [Hebrews 11 (NLT) **And it is impossible to please God without faith.** Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him. ⁷ It was by faith that **Noah** built a large boat to save his family from the flood. **He obeyed** God, who warned him about things that had never happened before...¹¹ It was by faith that even **Sarah** was able to have a child, though she was barren and was too old. **She believed that God would keep his promise...**¹³ ...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 child, and **they were not afraid to disobey the king’s command...**³¹ It was by faith that **Rahab** the prostitute was not destroyed with the people in her city who refused to obey God. For she had given a **friendly welcome to the spies.** ³²...It would take too long to recount the stories of the faith of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and all the prophets. ³³ By faith these people **overthrew kingdoms, ruled with justice, and received what God had promised them. They shut the mouths of lions,** ³⁴ **quenched the flames of fire, and escaped death by the edge of the sword.** Their weakness was turned to strength. They became strong in battle and put whole armies to flight. ³⁵ **Women received their loved ones back again from death.**
- C. Survey, [Hebrews 11 (NLT) **And it is impossible to please God without faith.** Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him. ⁷ It was by faith that **Noah** built a large boat to save his family from the flood. **He obeyed** God, who warned him about things that had never happened before...⁸ It was by faith that **Abraham obeyed** when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance....¹⁰ Abraham was **confidently looking forward** to a city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built by God. ¹¹ It was by faith that even **Sarah** was able to have a child,

though she was barren and was too old. **She believed that God would keep his promise...**¹³ *All these people died still believing what God had promised them. They did not receive what was promised, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it.* They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth...¹⁷ It was by faith that Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice when God was testing him. Abraham, who had received God's promises, was ready to sacrifice his only son, Isaac,¹⁸ even though God had told him, "Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted."¹⁹ Abraham reasoned that if Isaac died, God was able to bring him back to life again. And in a sense, Abraham did receive his son back from the dead...²² It was by faith that Joseph, when he was about to die, said confidently that the people of Israel would leave Egypt. He even commanded them to **take his bones with them when they left.**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 child, and **they were not afraid to disobey the king's command.**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 than to own the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to his great reward.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.**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.²⁹ It was by faith that the people of Israel went right through the Red Sea as though they were on dry ground...³⁰ It was by faith that the people of Israel marched around Jericho for seven days, and the walls came crashing down.³¹ It was by faith that **Rahab** the prostitute was not destroyed with the people in her city who refused to obey God. For she had given a **friendly welcome to the spies.**³² How much more do I need to say? It would take too long to recount the stories of the faith of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and all the prophets.³³ By faith these people **overthrew kingdoms, ruled with justice, and received what God had promised them. They shut the mouths of lions,**³⁴ **quenched the flames of fire, and escaped death by the edge of the sword.** Their weakness was turned to strength. They became strong in battle and put whole armies to flight.³⁵ **Women received their loved ones back again from death.**

D.