

## “By Faith, Power”

### 1. Triumph of Faith (Vv32-34)

#### A. Figures of Faith:

- Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets. (V32)

#### B. Faith's Actions:

- Achieved victories, performed acts of righteousness, and experienced divine support (V33)

#### C. Faith's Results:

- Escaped death, subdued the powerful, made strong from weakness, mighty in war - all possible in Godly faith! (V34)

### 2. Endurance in Faith (Verses 35-38)

#### A. Contrasting Outcomes:

- Some received miraculous deliverance, while others faced torture and death, but the unrelenting faith was in what was to come from the Lord. (V35)

#### B. Faith Amidst Trials:

- Emphasis on enduring faith despite circumstances. Faith and peace **will happen** when you trust His judgment not yours.

- **Philippians 4:7** - “..and the peace of God which transcends all comprehension, will guard your hearts and you minds in Christ Jesus.”

- Faith did not promise ease or comfort, nor freedom from persecution, suffering or imprisonment. They were tortured, tempted, poor, helpless and abused(V36-37)

#### C. Unworthiness of the World

- Don't expect the world to cheer, they will shout you down, shun you, expel you - demean you. Lets be honest, standing firm for Christ and being faithful to your call will not invite the world's adoration. Point of fact - you will earn it's contempt. (V38)

### 3. The Promise of Faith (Verses 39-40)

#### A. Unified Faith:

- All these individuals were commended for their faith but did not receive the fullness of the promise. The extraordinary aspect of

much of the faith demonstrated in this chapter is once again a response to the “shadow” of things to come. (V39)

B. God’s Plan for Faith:

- The completion of God’s promise through Christ, unites all believers in faith is the fullness of the promise fulfilled in total in the person and nature of Christ and His death on the cross. God has provided the complete picture and promise for us - so we should ask the question - am I faithful to the complete promise of God? Is my emersion in the dominion and direction of Christ in my life, what does it look like, compared to the faith of those who have come before? (V40)

Conclusion

- A. Encouragement to Believers - Faith is not always rewarded in the immediate but has eternal significance. Through your efforts for His sake, He has not abandoned you.
- B. Faith is not about achieving a comfortable life, but persevering in trust, regardless of whether that leads to temporal victory or suffering, for the sake of the better promise in Jesus.

Prayer

## Small Group Questions - Hebrews 11:32-40

- The Faithful Figures (v. 32): The author cites Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets—individuals with serious flaws used by God, proving that God uses ordinary, flawed people who trust in Him.

*Question: What does this verse tell us about the nature of faith?*

- The Triumphs of Faith (v. 33-35a): Through faith, believers can experience supernatural demonstration—subduing kingdoms, stopping lions, escaping death, and receiving back dead loved ones, showcasing faith as a conduit for God's power.

*Question: Which figures inspire you the most and why? How did their faith influence their actions?*

- The Endurance in Faith (v. 35b-38): Faith does not guarantee ease; it also empowers believers to endure torture, mockery, imprisonment, and death without losing hope in God.

*Question: How does this truth shape your understanding of God's timing?*

- The Promise of Faith (v. 39-40): While Old Testament saints were commended for their faith, they did not receive the final promise (Christ) in their lifetime. Christians today hold an advantage because they live in the light of the fulfilled New Covenant.

*Question: With this encouragement, is there a practical step you can take in your life to strengthen your faithfulness?*