

Monroe Sullivan: The Legacy of Faithfulness
Dr. Michael A. Cox
Original: 1-13-24

Text: Hebrews 11: 1-40

V. 1 Faith is not believing something in spite of the evidence against it - that's superstition (cf. Wiersbe, *Exposition*, 2:317).

V. 4 When you have walked with God in life, you will walk with God through death and afterlife as well.

V. 4 Death is never the last word in the life of a righteous person (cf. Moffatt in Barclay 158).

V. 5 When you have walked with God on earth, you will walk with God in heaven as well.

V. 8 For faith to be real, "obeyed" must always accompany "believed."

V. 10 Faith expects something grand to be just over the next hill.

V. 13 People of faith convincingly demonstrate that they are not obeying God for what they can get on earth.

V. 21 People of faith do not lose faith, even when dying.

Vv. 20-22 Each of these men of biblical faith wanted God's blessings for their descendants.

V. 27 Moses did not believe in the unreal, but in the unseen.

V. 31 Faith and forgiveness are possible even for the seemingly most unlikely people (cf. Matt. 21:28-32; James 2:25).

- a. Abraham the deceiver
- b. Jacob the impersonator
- c. Moses the murderer
- d. Rahab the prostitute

V. 35 The faith of some people did not deliver them but did empower them to endure unspeakable pain and martyrdom.

V. 36 Maltreatment is often the price paid for remaining faithful to God.

V. 37 Not all people of faith experience God's miraculous death-defying deliverance like Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, yet they are still faithful people of God.

V. 38 Is it not ironic that many of these people, and the writer is likely referencing prophets, were forced to avoid the very ones to whom they were sent to proclaim God's word?

V. 38 People of the world live by feelings, not by faith, conversely, these biblical heroes lived by faith, not feelings.

Conclusion: Principles of faith.

(1) Our faith will be put to the test as long as we live.

(2) It is authentic faith which makes such deeds of valor, might, courage, and perseverance possible and God expects nothing less from us.

(3) "Faith can operate in the life of any person who will dare to listen to God's Word and surrender to God's will" (Wiersbe, *Exposition*, 2:320).

(4) Do not refuse to place your faith in the one who forgives even the worst of sinners - prostitutes, adulterers, fornicators, murderers, thieves, alcoholics, drug addicts, narcissists, abortionists, materialists, and more.

(5) The Legacy of Faithfulness from Charles Stanley of *In Touch Ministries*.