

I. Intro – Developing a ‘By Faith’ Mentality

- a. Definition: Developing a mentality that responds by faith throughout all the circumstances and seasons of our lives
- b. There is a faith response available to the believer in every situation they face
- c. Why is it important? Faith pleases God and without faith it is impossible to please God
 - i. The purpose of our existence is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever (1 Cor 10:32, Rom 11:36, Psalm 73:24-26), living by faith is the means God has given us to do that
- d. There are many opportunities (relationships, child-rearing, finances, etc...) to respond by faith and each time we do, we bless the heart of God!
- e. We need to ask ourselves “What is the faith response in this particular situation?”

II. The Importance of Endurance

- a. Hebrews 10:36 - ***For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.*** T
- b. “Never accept defeat on something God says you should win.”

III. The Process of Endurance

- a. Endurance is the natural by-product of living by faith
- b. James 1:2-4 ***“Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”***
- c. How can we consider trials a joy?
 - i. Just as resistance caused by lifting weights produces muscles, so the trying of our faith produces endurance
 - ii. When endurance is developed, over time we become complete, lacking nothing. In other words, we become the person God has created us to be all along.
 - iii. Knowing God has a greater plan in mind and is taking us someplace allows us to be joyful, even during trials

IV. Commentary

Hebrews 11:29-31

By faith they passed through the Red Sea as though they were passing through dry land; and the Egyptians, when they attempted it, were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the harlot did not perish along with those who were disobedient, after she had welcomed the spies in peace.

1. Children of Israel marching through the Red Sea: Faith in the face of fear
 - a. Takeaway – sometimes ‘by faith’ means taking action, even when we are scared

Email: chris@rcpeoria.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/rcFUEL



2. Jericho: The foolishness of faith
 - a. Takeaway – sometimes ‘by faith’ may mean we look foolish in the eyes of the world
 - b. Don’t let fear of other people’s opinions prevent you from doing what you know God says you should do
3. Rahab: Faith in spite of personal failure
 - a. Takeaway – Our shortcomings and failures do not disqualify us from being used by God
 - b. Admit it, quit it, and forget it
 - c. Though a righteous person falls seven times, seven times **he gets back up!** (Pro. 24:16)

Hebrews 11:32-34

And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.

Faith Victories Over Circumstances

1. They conquered kingdoms – Reference to Joshua, David, as well as the judges. Because Jesus lives in us, we are more than conquerors
2. They performed acts of righteousness – Could be talking about the righteous kings like David, Asa, Jehoshaphat, Joash, Hezekiah, and Josiah. All who made righteous decrees to turn the nation back to God.
3. Obtained promises – Abraham, Joshua, David, Hezekiah, and others
4. Shut the mouths of lions – Daniel in the lion’s den
5. Quenched the power of fire – Daniel’s friends in the fiery furnace
6. Escaped the edge of the sword – Elijah and Jeremiah
7. From weakness were made strong –Samson, (and every single believer in Christ)
8. Became mighty in war and put foreign armies to flight – Joshua, many of Israel’s judges, King David
9. Women received back their dead by resurrection – The widow from Zarephath received her son back from the dead because of Elijah (1Ki_17:17-24); The Shunammite woman, through Elisha (2Ki_4:8-37).

Let’s look at 11:35-40

Women received back their dead by resurrection; (there is the final victory **over** circumstances. Now here are the victories **in** circumstances) ***and others were tortured, not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection; and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated (men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground. And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect.***

Email: chris@rcpeoria.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/rcFUEL



(Hebrews 11:39-40 NASB)

Faith Victories *In* Circumstances

1. Being tortured, not accepting release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection. These believers would prefer to die rather than turn from God. This life wasn't as precious to them as the life they would experience at the resurrection.
2. Others experienced mockings, scourgings, chains and imprisonment – Jeremiah fits all three. He was mocked, beaten and imprisoned as were many other people of God
3. Stoned – Zechariah was stoned to death
4. Sawn in two – According to Jewish tradition, the prophet Isaiah was sawn in two
5. Tempted – Joseph
6. Put to death with the sword – Urijah was slain with the sword by King Jehoiakim for prophesying against Jerusalem
7. Went about in sheepskins and goatskins – Elijah
8. They were Destitute (in poverty), Afflicted and ill –treated
9. They had to wander in deserts (great heat and no water), mountains (extreme weather conditions), caves and holes in the ground (fugitives, isolation)

In the world's eyes, these people were not winning. The world's commentary on them would be that they were losers. But all that matters is God's commentary on them. "... ***Of whom the world was not worthy.***"

It's not the results that please God, but faith. We focus on believing God and acting on what we believe, and count on Him for the results. God produces the miracle, not us.

V. Chapter 11 Summary Statements

- a. **Statement #1: Endurance is an essential ingredient of living by faith.**

We are in a marathon, not a sprint and we need to make a decision that we are going to never quit on God. Never quit believing in His Word. Hard times will inevitably come. Our 3 enemies, the world, the flesh, and the devil will conspire to take us out. We counter by saturating ourselves in the Word of God, in prayer, in fellowship with the Spirit, and with each other on a daily basis. This will help us to never fall away from Him

- b. **Statement #2: In every season of life and every circumstance we find ourselves in, there is a 'by faith' response. Developing a 'by faith' mentality is the way to handle every issue we will ever encounter.**

- c. **Statement #3: Living by faith is a win/win situation. We win when we have victory over our circumstances and we win when we have victory in our circumstances.**

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