

Faith Baptist Church – Greenfield, IN

Pastor Larry Hof

Series: By Faith – Part 13

Sermon Notes: Faith Transcends Our Failings

Text: Hebrews 11:1–3, 32–40

Main Truth:

Faith doesn't celebrate our strength—it magnifies God's power working through our weakness. Real faith acts, not because we are capable, but because God is faithful.

1. The Nature of Faith (Hebrews 11:1–3)

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Faith is the foundation of our hope, the evidence of the unseen, and the key to the supernatural work of God.

'Faith produces action for the glory of the Object of faith—not the believer.'

Notes:

2. The Witness of the Faithful (Hebrews 11:32–38)

These were flawed people who took God at His Word. Their failures became fuel for God's glory through faith.

Person	Weakness	How God Used Their Faith
Gideon	Fearful farm boy	Became a mighty warrior
Barak	Dependent on Deborah	Learned to trust God directly
Samson	Self-centered and impulsive	Gave his life in victory at death
Jephthah	Outcast, rash vow	Delivered Israel
David	Lust, failure to fight	Man after God's heart
Samuel & Prophets	Imperfect servants	Moved God's people repeatedly

'God doesn't need perfect people—He perfects His people through faith.'

Notes:

3. The Triumph of Faith (Hebrews 11:33–40)

Through faith they subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped lions, quenched fire, escaped the sword, were made strong out of weakness, endured torture and death.

Faith transcends failings—because God honors faith, not performance.

Application:

- God used them to provide 'a better thing'—His Word, His Son, and His Spirit.
- They believed without seeing; we've seen and still hesitate to believe.
- What excuse do we have to not trust God's Word with every part of our lives?

Reflection Questions:

1. Where have I let failure silence my faith?
2. What 'better thing' has God given me to strengthen my trust?
3. Am I living by what I see—or by what God has said?

Key Verse: Hebrews 11:40 – “God having provided some better thing for us...”