

## By Faith 12 – Faith Triumphs Over Our Past

**Hebrews 11:1** Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

**2** For by it the elders obtained a good report.

**3** Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

- Knowing that nothing we do can produce anything worthwhile.
- Knowing that faith is the key to the supernatural power of the Almighty.
- Knowing that faith, real faith produces some action in the life of the believer for the glory of the Object of faith.
- As we go through the Hall of Faith and look at the images set before us
  - We want to truly see what their faith produced with the knowledge that the creation cannot create
  - only the Creator is truly producing anything.

God is not giving them glory for anything other than trusting Him as He produced unbelievable things.

**Hebrews 11:31** By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.

- By faith a Gentile prostitute was delivered from death to life.
  - Then she was placed in the lineage of Christ...
  - God does things so weird to me...
- Imagine you're just waiting at home for your next job
- Then two men come bursting into your home.
- It's obvious when you see them that they're from out of town,
- but your job is to show whomever pays a good time
- but then they plead with you to hide them.
- The town constables are looking for them.
- They are spies from a people that had escaped Egypt.
- You had heard how the people of Israel had been freed from the Egyptian tyranny by some God named Yahweh
- You had heard that they had even crossed the Red Sea on dry land because this God parted the waters.

- Their God had plagued Egypt for months to free His people.
  - I mean these stories sounded outlandish and made up,
  - but here they were, two Israelites, telling you how they got to your door.
  - They were going to overthrow your city and kill everyone in it...
  - so now it's up to you, turn them in, or hide them and help them escape...
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- When Jesus encountered the faith of a Roman Centurion He made sure to let His own people know how moved He was by this Gentile's faith.
    - It's one thing to have faith in a God that you have grown up with,
    - that you had become familiar with
    - and more than likely had taken His power and might for granted.
  - **Rahab's faith moved God!**
    - So much so that when the walled city of Jericho fell
    - her home which was in the wall, stood!!!
    - what power and might **produced** by faith!

- Rahab's faith came from what she had heard about Jehovah
- and she took Him at His Word...**that's faith!**

**Hebrews 11:32** And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:

**33** Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

**34** Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

**35** Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

**36** And others had trial of *cruel* mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

**37** They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

**38** (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and *in* mountains, and *in* dens and caves of the earth.

**39** And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:

**40** God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.