

Study of Hebrews #58

“Living by Faith: Some Final Examples and a Vital Connection

Text: Hebrews 11:32-40

I. Introduction and review

1. An overview of faith to instruct us (vs. 1-3)
 - a. Faith’s basic attribute (v. 1)
 - b. Faith’s ultimate reward (v. 2)
 - c. Faith’s primary understanding (v. 3)
2. Some Old Testament examples of faith to encourage us (vs. 4-31)

II. “What more shall I say?”

III. Final examples of faith and three observations

1. People of faith are people with flaws.
2. People of faith are people who often suffer.
3. People of faith live in a world that is not worthy of them.

IV. The vital New Covenant connection

V. Conclusion – a final word

QUOTES

1. Martin Luther:

We are beggars. This is true.

2. John Calvin:

In every saint there is always to be found something reprehensible. Nevertheless although faith may be imperfect and incomplete it does not cease to be approved by God. There is no reason, therefore, why the fault from which we labor should break us or discourage us provided we go on by faith in the race of our calling.

3. Henry Lyte:

*Men may trouble and distress me, 'twill but drive me to Thy breast;
Life with trials hard may press me, heaven will bring me sweeter rest.*

4 . Simon Kistemaker:

King Ahab sent search parties to every nation and kingdom to find Elijah, so that he might put the prophet to death (1 Kings 18:9–10). In the eyes of Ahab, Elijah was not worthy to live on the face of the earth. The text, however, says the exact opposite: “the world was not worthy of them.” That is, God’s enemies cannot be compared with God’s servants. These servants are great in honor and stature. King Ahab cannot be measured against Elijah, and King Herod is no match for John the Baptist. By their faith, believers tower above an unbelieving world in which God has placed them for man’s benefit.

5. ESV Study Bible:

Their presence in the world was itself evidence of God’s grace, for their proclamation of the word of God to sinful people was a greater privilege than people deserved.

6. Kent Hughes:

No one was “made perfect” under the Old Covenant, because Christ had not yet died. They were saved, but not until Jesus’ work on the cross was complete could salvation be perfect. Their salvation looked ahead to what Christ would do. Ours looks back to what he has done—and ours is perfect.

7. Al Mohler:

This again highlights the supreme significance of the new covenant. It was only in the establishment of the new covenant by the blood of Jesus that the old covenant promises could be fulfilled. This is what the author means in verse 40. Apart from the new covenant, there is no hope of perfect, unmitigated fellowship with God on the last day.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:

- Eph. 4:1
- John 20:26-29
- Col. 3:2
- Heb. 10:39; Ps. 40:5; Gen. 15:5
- Matt. 21:31-32; Ex. 33:19; Rom. 9:18
- Rom. 8:37; 1 Pet. 2:9
- John 16:33