

Faith's Journey Cont.

Hebrews 11:20-40

“Faith has a twofold victory. In one case, it conquers the enemy, for the difficulty, by securing its removal or destruction. In the other there is no deliverance from the troubles, and yet faith conquers in the power it receives to endure and to prove that its spirit is superior to all that men or devils can do. The triumphs of faith are often seen as remarkably in those who obtain no deliverance from the threatened evil as in those who do. After the mention of the heroes whose faith was rewarded with success, we have here the mention of those who, in the midst of suffering that was not removed, proved that their faith lifted them up above all the pains with which earth could threaten them. They ‘were tortured, not accepting their deliverance’ when offered them as the price of their faithfulness, ‘that they might obtain a better resurrection.’ Spiritual and eternal realities were by faith so clear and near that they did not reckon the sufferings of this present time worthy to be compared with the glory that will be revealed. The triumph of faith is seen as much in bearing a temporary defeat as in securing a victory. The victory of the vanquished is often the highest achievement.” Andrew Murray

- I. The patriarchs of faith, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph give us different pictures of what it meant to follow God as those chosen by Him to assure the lineage of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Abraham’s faith showed a man who was willing to do whatever God asked of him because of his **trust in the character of God**. Isaac’s faith was the weakest of all. He had trouble accepting God’s will for Jacob and struggled with it up to his dying day. Yet he, when faced with the reality of God making sure his will was fulfilled, did not try to fight against it. His faith, though weak, **submitted to and accepted God’s will** despite his own desires. Jacob’s faith **persevered** through suffering, loss, despair, and hopelessness. Joseph’s faith **chose allegiance to God** over bitterness from being sinned against. Moses’ faith **valued the treasure of God’s kingdom** more than the treasure of privilege and wealth. His parents’ faith **feared God more than man**. The Israelites faith became a **determined faith** to obey and trust God. The prostitute Rahab’s faith seemed to come out of nowhere and came from **a heart that believed God existed** because of the great things he had done for the Israelites.

Hebrews 11:21-31

Gen. 2:27-28

Gen. 26:2-5

Gen. 25:23

Joshua 2:8-10

- II. There are two leaders in the world: Satan, who is the ruler of the kingdom of the air and God, who is the Supreme Ruler over all mankind. Those who follow the ruler of the kingdom of the air have put their faith in him whether they know it or not. They are controlled by him and live by faith in him. They respond to his leadership and obey him through the power of his spirit. Those who follow the only true, holy, righteous, sovereign Lord and King have put their faith in Him alone to follow His ways alone. True believers live by faith in Him, walk by faith in Him, and obey His leadership through the power of His Spirit. He is the one who empowers us to stand strong in our faith amidst the storm of godlessness that Satan and his evil world system of belief is throwing at us.

Eph. 2:1-5
1 Jn. 5:19

Ps. 18:2 *The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock. I whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.*

- III. Faith is power. It unleashes the power of God to accomplish great things through us. A life saved is a great thing. A family raised to love and obey Christ is a great thing, a life changed to live righteousness because of faith is a great thing. To stem the tide of ungodliness by taking a stand and fighting the good fight of faith is a great thing. God is in the business of doing great things through us if our faith in Him allows it. When we think about it, there is no good reason to shrink back from powerfully living our faith, for he who is in us is greater than he who is in the world. The prize is our glorification!

Heb. 11:32-40

“Our passage gives now confirmation to the one lesson: By faith alone! Would you please God, would you conquer sin and the world, would you be holy and perfect, would you live as the heir of heaven and eternity? Then live as a man and woman of faith, meet every trial in the spirit of a joyful faith in God; every trial will make you meet for, and bring you nearer to, God’s blessed presence.” Andrew Murray

1 Jn. 4:4 *4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.*