

## What More Shall I Say?

### Introduction and Review

- ❑ Last week we observed faith is necessary outside & inside the Promised Land (v. 29-31).
- ❑ We learned that even when believers initially respond in fear, they may still be stirred up to obey God in faith (v. 29).
- ❑ We learned that God gives instructions to bring down walls of impossibility, but believers must obey in faith (v. 30).
- ❑ We also learned that God's plan of redemption includes unlikely & impossible candidates for salvation in faith (v. 31).

### I. Accomplishments Through Faith (v. 32-35a)

#### A. Military & political success

*Even with success, these men had their weaknesses: Gideon & Barak (timid), Samson (women), Jephthah (foolish vow), and David (immorality & murder). God who knows the heart reveals that these military & political victories were a result of their sincere faith in God. People may remember believers for their outward successes or failures, but God remembers them for their acts of faith (1Co. 15:58). **Believers must face government & political issues by faith and loyalty to God rather than loyalty to race, party or movement (Example – Jesus & followers in 1<sup>st</sup> century). [Ps. 20:7]***

#### B. Religious success

*Samuel, the prophets, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego fought spiritual battles against idolatry, immorality & the powers of evil. Some successes were obvious – “stopped the mouths of lions”, “quenched the power of fire” & “Women received back their dead by resurrection”. Other successes were not so obvious because God's people did not obey the prophet. But the prophet spoke & obeyed the Lord by faith = success & victory! **[Well done, good...]** Believers must face religious issues by faith & loyalty to God rather than cliques, friendships, family, etc.*

Believers must fight our physical & spiritual battles by faith in God - homes, jobs, schools, churches, government, etc.

### II. Sufferings Through Faith (v. 35b-38)

#### A. Deprivation

*By faith believers are willing to be deprived of the necessities of life for the love of Christ & righteousness sake (Mt. 5:10-12). They experienced physical & emotional suffering – mocking, flogging, chains, imprisonment, skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated, wandering about in deserts, mountains, dens & caves. Believers know that God can & does supply every need, but sometimes He requires us to suffer physical needs for eternal rewards.*

***They kept the faith even though they were deprived!***

#### B. Death

*By faith believers would rather die than knowingly compromise the will of God – “refusing to accept release”. Believers must sometimes face cruel & premeditated actions designed to cause physical pain which results in death – tortured, stoned, sawn into, killed with the sword. Believers know that God can & does deliver us from all dangers, but sometimes that deliverance is into eternal glory (2Co. 1:10).*

***They kept the faith knowing they were going to die!***

### III. Nothing Compares To The Promise (v. 39-40)

#### A. The promise delayed (v. 39)

*Neither victories nor sufferings cause them to lose focus or hope in the promise of God to redeem (Gen. 3:15; Job. 19:25). The ultimate promise was a Redeemer & Savior. They all died believing that the Redeemer was coming! **A delayed promise from God is still a certainty/guarantee!***

#### B. The promise made perfect (v. 40)

*Their faith was not in vain because Jesus came, lived the perfect life, died the substitutionary death & was raised in a glorious resurrection. The promise was made perfect or complete in Jesus. And now NT saints are joined together with OT saints as we all look to Jesus our Savior & Lord! **Everyone in heaven from Abel (v. 4) to the last sinner saved on earth will be saved by faith in Jesus (Jn. 14:6).***

## CONCLUSION

So then my brothers & sisters as we come to the conclusion of Hebrews 11, what conclusions have you reached for your own life today? Are you willing to face any government, political or religious issue by faith & loyalty to God regardless of what other people do? Are you willing to trust God for success in any government, political or religious issue regardless of what other people do? Are you willing to be deprived of the necessities of life for the love of Jesus & to do His will? Are you willing to suffer premeditated, cruel & even deadly actions against you for loving & obeying Jesus? I certainly hope your answer is yes I am willing to trust God with the outcome of every experience in my life – physical/spiritual, home/church, government/job, school/pleasure. I hope we can all answer together that my faith & my loyalty is to God above everyone & everything else!

If you are not a Christian, I hope you will reach the right conclusion today also. Believe in Jesus & be saved right now regardless of what other people do. Believe in Jesus & be saved right now regardless of how you feel. Only believe...

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