

HEBREWS 11:23–40

FIRST DAY: Introduction

How great is our faith? So great that it can cause us to:

- Make right choices
- Endure rejection
- Keep God's Word
- Pass through places that drown others
- Bring down walls
- Be saved while others perish
- Subdue kingdoms
- Work righteousness
- Obtain promises
- Stop the mouths of lions
- Quench the violence of fire
- Escape the edge of the sword
- Become strong out of weakness
- Become valiant in battle
- Turn to flight the armies of the enemy

The Bible attests again and again to the outworking of faith in the men and women who believed God, trusted in His Word, and acted on it.

In Hebrews 11:32–40, the author highlighted the mighty feats of men and women who exercised faith. He also wrote about how faith enabled many of the Old Testament saints to endure severe and difficult circumstances. These saints were empowered by looking forward in faith to the promise of God’s Messiah.

Today, because we have the fulfillment of God’s promise in Jesus, we have even more potential for the same great testimonies as those who looked toward the promise of God.

Ask God to give you a testimony of faith.

SECOND DAY: Read Hebrews 11:23–28

1. Moving forward almost three hundred years, the author continued his discourse on faith with the testimony of Moses. Use Hebrews 11:23 to note and comment on how Moses’ *parents* demonstrated *faith*.
 - a. Read the king’s command in Exodus 1:22. Why was it commendable that *they were not afraid of the king’s command*?

2. From Hebrews 11:24–26 note and remark on the following actions of Moses *when he became of age*:

a. What he *refused* (verse 24)

(1) Link this with Exodus 2:5–6, 10. Why do you think his refusal would have required *faith*?

b. What he chose (verse 25)

(1) Pastor Warren Wiersbe notes that the passing pleasures of sin can include *a way of life that we today would call “successful”—position, prestige, power, wealth, and freedom from problems.*¹⁸ What does this convey to you about walking by faith in our world today?

c. What he esteemed (verse 26a)

(1) Connect this with the following Scriptures and share your thoughts:

(a) Romans 8:18

(b) Philippians 3:7–8, 10

3. According to Hebrews 11:27a, Moses *forsook Egypt* by faith. Why did he not fear *the wrath of the king*? Hebrews 11:27b

a. Link this with Hebrews 11:1 and share your thoughts.

4. Hebrews 11:28 (NLT) says, *It was by faith that Moses commanded the people of Israel to keep the Passover and to sprinkle blood on the doorposts so that the angel of death would not kill their firstborn sons.* Link this with Exodus 12:12–13. What role do you observe faith playing in keeping this first Passover?
5. From today's study, what speaks to you most about the outworking of faith in the testimony of:
- a. Moses' parents

 - b. Moses' choices

 - c. Moses and the Passover

THIRD DAY: Read Hebrews 11:29–31

1. As the author continued to highlight the faith of God's people, he recalled the parting of the Red Sea (Exodus 14). Use Hebrews 11:29 to contrast the fruit of Israel's *faith* with the fate of the Egyptians.

a. What does this convey to you about the difference *faith* makes in the hard places of life?

2. Hebrews 11:30 refers to Israel's miraculous victory at Jericho. Link this with Joshua 6:10–16, 20. In what ways do you see *faith* at work in this story?

3. What resulted from Rahab's *faith*? Hebrews 11:31

a. According to James 2, Rahab serves as an example of *faith* demonstrated by action. Scan her story in Joshua 2:3–21 to highlight and comment on:

(1) Her *faith* (what she knew to be true)—Joshua 2:9–13

(2) The outworking of her *faith*—Joshua 2:15–16, 21

b. Not only was Rahab commended twice in the New Testament for her *faith* (Hebrews 11 and James 2), but she also became part of the genealogy of Jesus (Matthew 1:5). What does this suggest to you about *faith*?

4. Share a takeaway concerning faith from each of the following events:
 - a. The parting of the Red Sea

 - b. The fall of Jericho

 - c. Rahab saving the spies

(1) How do these events inspire you to actualize your *faith*?

FOURTH DAY: Read Hebrews 11:32–35

1. The author recognized that *time would fail* him to relate every testimony of faith in Scripture. Therefore, in Hebrews 11:32 he simply listed a few more examples. Choose one or two of the following and briefly summarize their testimony of *faith*:

- a. Gideon—Judges 7:15–22

- b. Barak—Judges 4:14–16

- c. Samson—Judges 16:25–30

- d. Jephthah—Judges 11:29, 32–33

- e. David—1 Samuel 17:34–51

- f. Samuel—1 Samuel 7:8–13

- g. The prophets—James 5:10–11a, 1 Peter 1:10–12

(1) Pastor David Guzik points out, *Each one of these were men of faith, yet had notable areas of failure in their life. ... This shows that weak faith is better than unbelief, and you don't have to be perfect to make it into God's "Hall of Faith."*¹⁹ How does this encourage you?

2. From Hebrews 11:33–35a, list some of the remarkable feats that were accomplished *through faith* in the lives of these saints:

- | | |
|----|----|
| a. | f. |
| b. | g. |
| c. | h. |
| d. | i. |
| e. | j. |

(1) Which of these feats stands out to you?

(2) How do these extraordinary feats expand your view of *faith*?

3. In addition to working miracles, faith also provides strength in tribulation. How does Hebrews 11:35b underscore this truth?

a. Connect this with the following Scriptures to remark on our *better resurrection*:

(1) Matthew 5:11–12

(2) 2 Corinthians 4:17

4. From your study today, share something that strengthens your faith from the examples of:

a. Men of faith (verse 32)

b. Works of faith (verses 33–35a)

c. Endurance by faith (verse 35b)

FIFTH DAY: Read Hebrews 11:36–40

1. Although God performs mighty works in response to faith, walking by faith is not always easy. Use Hebrews 11:36–38 to list some of the trials faced by God's people.

a. In light of this sobering fact, what comfort do you receive from John 16:33 and 2 Corinthians 1:9–10?

b. Even though these people were despised by the *world*, according to Hebrews 11:38a, what was God's estimation of them?

(1) How does this speak to you?

2. The Old Testament saints exercised faith by believing God's Word. Contained in this Word was the ultimate promise of the Messiah. Despite not receiving this promise, what did these saints have? Hebrews 11:39

3. In Hebrews 11:40, the author stated that God provided *something better for us*—the work of Jesus Christ (the Messiah) on our behalf. Use Ephesians 2:4–7 to briefly describe this *something better*.

c. Rahab (Hebrews 11:31)

d. Other Old Testament saints (Hebrews 11:32–35a)

2. From your lesson this week, what stands out to you most about *Our Great Faith*?