
“FAITH WITNESSES”

THE FAITH OF RAHAB

HEBREWS 11:31

SERIES: “REAL FAITH IN AN UNREAL WORLD” (8)

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Introduction

We have been looking at living the supernatural life of faith. Another aspect of faith is a WITNESS to God’s amazing GRACE. Rahab’s life displays the undeserved grace of God.

In our series on Hebrews 11 FAITH, “**Real Faith in an Unreal World**”, we have taken a look at various aspects of faith:

- **FAITH WORSHIPS:** Abel brought a sacrifice.
- **FAITH WALKS:** Enoch’s close relationship with the Lord.
- **FAITH WORKS:** Noah expressed his faith by building an ark.
- **FAITH WAITS:** Abraham rested in the providence and sovereignty of God.
- **FAITH WARS:** Moses overcame the impossible and led God’s people out of the bondage of Egypt.
- **FAITH WINS:** Joshua conquered Jericho.
- **FAITH WITNESSES:** Rahab’s life testifies about the undeserved grace of God.

“Grace is not simply a supplement to our strength, for we have no strength of our own. Grace turns our weakness into power for the glory of God.

‘For when I am weak, then I am strong.’ ”

“We must keep in mind also that the grace of God is infinite and eternal. As it had no beginnings, so it has no end.”

■ A.W. Tozer

Not all the faith was outside the city walls!

Hebrews 11:30-31

During those last 7 days before the fall of Jericho, faith was working and growing in Rahab's heart, just as it was with Joshua. Last week we looked at the principles of overcoming faith, which are likewise true in Rahab's life:

- **The BATTLE of faith:** Rahab trusted in God although she could have lost everything, including her life.
- **The OBEDIENCE of faith:** Rahab gave implicit obedience to God's explicit instructions.
- **The FOCUS of faith:** Rahab rested her faith on the fact that God was present and in control. Joshua 2:8-11
- **The PATIENCE of faith:** For 7 days Rahab waited in suspense.
- **The DECLARATION of faith:** Rahab declared her faith in God. (Josh.2:8-11)

The storyline

The two spies would have been captured, but for the fact that they were hidden by Rahab, a prostitute. (see Heb. 11:31 & James 2:25 – “*pornay*”)

So unanticipated, and so extraordinary, was this madame's courageous faith, that she is included in the Hall of Faith in Hebrews 11, along with the likes of Enoch, Noah, Abraham and Moses: *“By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she had welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.”* (Hebrews 11:31)

Rahab's faith, a prostitutes faith, is given as an example for all who desire to have true faith, especially those who know they are sinners and who deep down want to be pleasing to God ... this is the WITNESS OF FAITH... a witness to God's grace.

Looking at faith & grace from 3 angles:

1. Faith's PRACTICE

An awkward truth: Rahab lied!

The Bible does not condone lying.

John Newton

Growing in our faith

Rahab and Abraham DEMONSTRATED their faith.

*Is your faith real? Can it be seen in what YOU DO?
Are we willing to let it cost us something?*

2. Faith's PROGRESS

Where did Rahab get her faith?

3. Faith's PRIZE

Rahab's faith produced 3 rewards:

- * Israel was encouraged (Josh. 2:23-24)

- * Rahab's own salvation (Josh. 6:22-25)

- * God's amazing grace in her life
 - Rahab became an ancestor of Jesus! (Matthew 1:4-6)
 - She also married a prince – Salmon

Faith comes to us in response to God's Word.

Romans 10:17

We have an incredible advantage over Rahab. She received just a fragment of truth, we have the Bible and are surrounded by people of faith.

God does not expect perfection – he walks with us as we grow into maturity.

The story of John Newton

*"My memory is nearly gone, but I remember 2 things:
that I am a great sinner, and that Christ is a great Saviour."*