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# “FAITH WITHSTANDS”

## THE FAITH OF THE MULTITUDE

HEBREWS 11:32 - 40

SERIES: “REAL FAITH IN AN UNREAL WORLD” (9)

WATERKLOOF BAPTIST CHURCH SERMON NOTES 06/09/2020

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### Introduction

Over the past weeks we have been taking a look at various facets of faith. Today we will focus on one final facet: that faith withstands or perseveres.

In our series on Hebrews 11 FAITH, we have already seen that:

- **FAITH WORSHIPS:** Abel’s sacrifice calls us to worship the Lord Jesus who died for our sin.
- **FAITH WALKS:** Enoch’s intimate relationship with God reminds us to cultivate our faith by spending time with the Lord.
- **FAITH WORKS:** Noah expressed his faith by building an ark to save his family. People with true faith are concerned about other’s salvation.
- **FAITH WAITS:** Abraham rested on the providence and sovereign purposes of God.
- **FAITH WARS:** Moses overcame the bondage of Egypt and led God’s people into the Promised Land.
- **FAITH WINS:** Joshua conquered Jericho: there are faith battles to win.
- **FAITH WITNESSES:** Rahab’s life is a testimony to the depth of God’s amazing grace.

### Hebrews 11:32-40

Henry Jowett and Charles Haddon Spurgeon

# The last perspective of faith in Hebrews 11: faith withstands - it perseveres!

Hebrews 11:1

The author of the Letter to the Hebrews concludes the faith chapter with a dazzling rush of encouragement as he quickly describes the EMPOWERMENT that comes through faith to those who put their trust in God -- people who may have appeared as either winners or losers in this life.

## 1. Empowered for victory (v32-35a)

When you look at these heroes of faith they all have something in common:

- ✓ Each one lived in a day when faith in God was .....
- ✓ Each one battled overwhelming .....
- ✓ Each one had a ..... faith.

*"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 labour should break us or discourage us, provided we go by faith in the race of our calling."* -- John Calvin

BY FAITH we are empowered ...

- for faith and conquest (v33a)
- for personal deliverance (v33b – 34)
- for great achievements (34b – 35)

Faith can ...

**But there is a parallel truth:**

God has not promised to deliver us from every problem we face in this life, at all times and in every situation.

In fact, not all of us will be apparent "winners" in this life ...

from the world's point of view, some people of faith will be huge "losers".

## **2. Empowered for perseverance (v35b - 39)**

- ✓ **Empowered to persevere in ..... (v35b – 36)**

The Maccabean persecution

- ✓ **Empowered to persevere in ..... (v37a)**

- ✓ **Empowered to persevere in the ..... and deprivations of life (v37b-38)**

What was the result?

- They were all commended for their faith (v39a)
- None of the faithful received what was promised (v39b)

They did not receive the great promise: the coming Messiah (Jesus) because they lived under the Old Covenant.

v40

“I will not doubt”

When you doubt, look to the cross!!

Hebrews 12:2

*“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down on the right hand of the throne of God.”*

Job 13:5

*“Though he slay me yet will I trust in Him”*

2 Timothy 1:12

*“For I know in whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have entrusted to Him until that day.”*

Horatius Spafford

*“When peace like a river attendeth my way...  
..... It is well, it is well, it is well with my soul”*