

## **Living by Faith (Part 2)**

### **Hebrews 11:17-40**

In chapter 11, the writer is showing us that there is a way to live that brings pleasure to God and lasting joy to us, even in times of trial. It's the life of faith.

#### **Faith knows that God is able:**

Even Abraham had his faith tested. Isaac was his promised son, but God told him to sacrifice him. He could only understand that by knowing that God was able to raise the dead. When our faith is tested, and life doesn't make sense, we can stand in faith by knowing that God is able to bring life from death and turn good from bad.

#### **Faith sees the future:**

Isaac and Jacob are pictured blessing the next generation. Joseph is shown predicting the exodus. They could see the future and know that God will stay faithful to His promises.

#### **Faith knows who is in ultimate control:**

Moses' parents refused to fear Pharaoh; and faith doesn't give in to fear because it knows who is in ultimate control. Especially, it doesn't need to fear for our children. It knows that the children of those who fear God have a refuge in God.

#### **Faith leads to choices framed by eternity:**

Moses gave up wealth and power, because faith looks beyond the world's value system. Faith knows that in the light of eternity, there are things more important than possessions or success. Faith sees through the short-lived nature of this life's blessings. It receives them all as gracious gifts, but it knows they aren't the ultimate reward. Faith knows that Christ is worth infinitely more than anything the world has to offer.

#### **Faith does crazy things:**

Crossing the Red Sea, marching round Jericho, being the only one in your city (like Rahab) to side with God's people are crazy things to do. And sometimes the life of faith will lead you to do crazy things that would be *totally* crazy if God wasn't in it.

#### **Faith brings great victories:**

Faith refuses to accept the status quo, it's always looking to see God's kingdom come and his will be done. But all the people the writer mentions were flawed or fearful. But God makes strong out of weakness. And the kind of person who knows they are weak is exactly the person God can use.

#### **Faith holds on in great suffering:**

The life of faith is not one victory parade after another. It offers no promise of a carefree life. But faith gives the ability to hold on in great suffering because it looks past the suffering to the God who's holding on to us.

And it promises great reward: Christ. And it is only in him: in his suffering and victory over death that our own sufferings and victories find their true meaning. It is only in him that we can be complete.