

Text: Hebrews 11:32-40
June 19, 2011

Grace Bible Church
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The Portrait Gallery of Faith in Action (*part 4*)

1) *Portraits of Faith* – Triumphant heroes of the faith (32-35a)

2) *Portraits of Faith* – Suffering heroes of the faith (35b-38)

3) *Portraits of Faith* – All looking to the ultimate fulfillment of the promise (39-40)

GBC Application Questions

Grace Bible Church desires that you respond to this sermon by believing the gospel, obeying the Savior, and discipling the world for the glory of God. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions and praying through the issues will help you further meditate upon God’s Word in order to see how this can be done.

FOCUSING ON THE PASSAGE:

1. Read Hebrews 11:32-40. Which one of the people mentioned in verse 32 were you surprised by in regard to their mention in this chapter on those with great faith? Take a few moments and think through how their faith was manifested. What are we to learn from that particular individual in regard to living by faith?

2. In Hebrews 11:33 the writer notes that through faith they “obtained promises” but then in verse 39 the writer states that they “did not receive what was promised.” Did the writer contradict himself? What is he talking about? What are the differences the ‘promises’ mentioned?

3. In the light of 11:35-38, would it be true to say that faith and obedience always lead to success and prosperity? Why or why not?

FOCUSING ON YOUR LIFE:

4. How would you assess the status of your faith? How is your faith manifested in day to day life? How should looking forward to seeing and being with Christ affect your week that is ahead? How should that define your priorities?

Thoughts for Worship:

Spurgeon on “Be ye separate” from 2 Corinthians 6:17:

The Christian, while in the world, is not to be of the world. He should be distinguished from it in the great object of his life. To him, “to live,” should be “Christ.” Whether he eats, or drinks, or whatever he does, he should do all to God’s glory. You may lay up treasure; but lay it up in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, where thieves break not through nor steal. You may strive to be rich; but be it your ambition to be “rich in faith,” and good works. You may have pleasure; but when you are merry, sing psalms and make melody in your hearts to the Lord. In your spirit, as well as in your aim, you should differ from the world. Waiting humbly before God, always conscious of his presence, delighting in communion with him, and seeking to know his will, you will prove that you are of heavenly race. And you should be separate from the world in your actions. If a thing be right, though you lose by it, it must be done; if it be wrong, though you would gain by it, you must scorn the sin for your Master’s sake. You must have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. Walk worthy of your high calling and dignity. Remember, O Christian, that thou art a son of the King of kings. Therefore, keep thyself unspotted from the world. Soil not the fingers which are soon to sweep celestial strings; let not these eyes become the windows of lust which are soon to see the King in his beauty—let not those feet be defiled in miry places, which are soon to walk the golden streets—let not those hearts be filled with pride and bitterness which are ere long to be filled with heaven, and to overflow with ecstatic joy.