

LIVING OR DYING BY FAITH ~ Hebrews 11:32-44

→ Scripture Reading - Heb. 11:32-38

CONQUERING BY FAITH ~ Hebrews 11:32-35

[32] And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, [33] who through FAITH conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, [34] quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. [35] Women received back their dead, raised to life again,...

SUFFERING BY FAITH ~ Hebrews 11:35-38

[35] ...Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. [36] Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. [37] They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated- [38] the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

God has not promised wholesale deliverance in this life for his people at all times and in every situation. Hughes

...the writer changes the emphasis by showing that FAITH also provides a different empowerment the power to persevere to the end. Hughes

PROMISES NOT RECEIVED ~ Hebrews 11:35-38

[39] These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. [40] God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

CONCLUSIONS J. Piper

- By FAITH God does AMAZING Acts - Rescuing and Saving His People
- By FAITH God SUSTAINS His people THROUGH Terrible Hardship and Suffering
- Faith is NOT the DETERMINING Factor in whether we Suffer or Escape
- FAITH believes God is BETTER than what LIFE can offer- better than what DEATH can take away

APPLICATION

James 1:2-4 (HCS) Consider it a great joy, my brothers, whenever you experience (fall into) various trials, [3] knowing that the **testing of your FAITH** produces endurance. [4] But endurance must do its complete work, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.

Endurance = steadfastness, persistence, determination While UNDER the TRIAL

When Endurance FINISHES its Work... Life App Com

- **Maturity** - experienced, well-developed, fit for the tasks God has set before us
- **Complete** - Fully Trained
- **Not Lacking Anything** - more and more weakness and blind-spots eliminated

FAITH - says THANK YOU for the Easier Times knowing that the TESTING of Faith will come

FAITH - Believes that God has a PURPOSE in the GOOD times and the HARD times

FAITH - Trusts God for the Strength to ENDURE Joyfully in the Darkest Times

FAITH - REFUSES to ask WHY me?

Many things in this life are utterly the opposite from the way they seem. When the precious children of God are permitted to suffer and be rejected and mistreated and go destitute, afflicted and abused, God is giving a gift to the world. He is gracing the world. He is shedding His love abroad in the world. Because in those who suffer and die in the unshakable assurance of hope in God, the world is given a message and a picture: The Lord himself is better than life... come to Him and believe." Piper

TAKE AWAY ??

FAITH BUSTERS

- Focusing on DOUBT and FEAR
- Focusing on the NEGATIVE
- Having a Heart FULL of DISSATISFACTION

FAITH BUILDERS

- Recount WHAT God has done Before
- GIVE THANKS
 - 1 **Thessalonians 5:18** (HCS) Give thanks in everything, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
- Ask God for HELP to TRUST and BELIEVE
 - Mark 9:24** (NIV) Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"
- Make a COMMITMENT to Hang On no Matter what
- Do what you NEED to do
- FOCUS on God's Goodness

Hebrews 11:1 (NIV) Now FAITH is being SURE of what we Hope for and CERTAIN of what we do not see.