

Hebrews 11:32-33 (NLT)

[32] How much more do I need to say? It would take too long to recount the stories of the faith of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and all the prophets. [33] By faith these people overthrew kingdoms, ruled with justice, and received what God had promised them. They shut the mouths of lions,

Hebrews 11:35-35 (NLT)

[34] quenched the flames of fire, and escaped death by the edge of the sword. Their weakness was turned to strength.

They became strong in battle and put whole armies to flight. [35] Women received their loved ones back again from death. But others were tortured, refusing to turn from God in order to be set free. They placed their hope in a better life after the resurrection.

Hebrews 11:36-38 (NLT)

[36] Some were jeered at, and their backs were cut open with whips. Others were chained in prisons. [37] Some died by stoning, some were sawed in half, and others were killed with the sword. Some went about wearing skins of sheep and goats, destitute and oppressed and mistreated. [38] They were too good for this world, wandering over deserts and mountains, hiding in caves and holes in the ground.

**LIVING or DYING
BY FAITH**

Hebrews 11:32-40

**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

CONCLUSIONS

- By **FAITH** God does **AMAZING** acts -
by Rescuing and Saving His
People
- By **FAITH** God **SUSTAINS** His
people **THROUGH** Terrible
Hardship and Suffering

CONCLUSIONS

- 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

James 1:2-4 (HCS)

Consider it **a great joy**, my brothers,
whenever you experience
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...

- **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, to be 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

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 Thess. 5:18 (HCS) Give **THANKS IN everything**, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

FAITH BUILDERS

- 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

FAITH BUILDERS

- 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.

Questions

1. Why is it easier for us to have FAITH when we are seeing Victory Over Hard things?
2. Why is it that the Hard things Shape and Mold us and make us more like Jesus?
3. How is Thankfulness tied into FAITH?