

MAY 17 2009

H E R O E S
O F F A I T H

A Hero

- One who in the face of danger and adversity displays courage and the will for self sacrifice for some greater good
- One with special powers
- A hero of faith?
 - Someone who by faith, has achieved something that he would otherwise have not without such faith

Faith

- “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for.” Hebrews 11:1-2
- Faith is the basis of our religion
- Romans 14:23 “But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin”

Hebrews 11

- Hebrews 11 makes mention of many Bible characters that have triumphed by faith
- Showcases the characters of the Bible who have shown exemplary faith in God



Abraham – Hebrews 11:8-12

- A man who believed in all of God's promises
- Abraham showed faith in the promise of providence
- “By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going” Hebrews 11:8
- God called to Abraham to come out of Ur , leave his country and his household and go to the land He would show him

Abraham – Hebrews 11:8-12

- “By faith Abraham, even though he was past age—and Sarah herself was barren—was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise.” Hebrews 11:11
- Abraham showed faith in the promise over the impossible
- Just as Abraham was blessed for his faith, God too will bless us for ours, even in the face of the impossible

Abraham – Hebrews 11:8-12

- Abraham showed unparalleled faith in God's command
- He was willing to sacrifice his son because God ordered him to
- “By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son” Hebrews 11:17
- God demands that we love him more than any other

Abraham – Hebrews 11:8-12

- Romans 4:18-21 ¹⁸Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations ... ²¹being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.
- Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness by God
- This righteousness is not for him alone but also for us (Romans 4:24)

Moses – Hebrews 11:23-29



Moses lived in a time when Israelites were living in slavery in Egypt. The Pharaoh was afraid of the numbers and might of the growing Israelites during this time so he had them put under extreme bondage and slavery from rebelling against him

Moses – Hebrews 11:23-29

- Moses grew to be a hero of faith
- “By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel. By faith the people passed through the Red Sea[d] as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.” Hebrews 11:24-29

Moses – Hebrews 11:23-29

- In the face of persecution Moses persevered (verse 27)
- Without having to see the miracles that the Lord performed before him, Moses already believed in the power of God
- He had faith in the promise of deliverance to those faithful to God

Jesus Christ

- The greatest hero of all
- Jesus prayed in his greatest hour of need: “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.”
- Our Lord Jesus Christ exemplified perfect faith in God’s will

Hebrews 11:32-35

And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, 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. Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection.

Our takeaway

- Faith is powerful beyond our understanding
- Look to God to refine our faith
- “By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible”
Hebrews 11:3
- Because of our belief and Christ’s sacrifice for us, we are already heroes of faith in the eyes of God