

# I Believe

“Do You Believe That You Have Enough Faith?”  
Hebrews 11:32-40 – June 26, 2022

## Our Sermon Series

I BELIEVE			
Exploring What You Believe from the Bible's Hall of Faith			
Date	Message Title	Hebrews	Faith Hero
April 17	Do You Believe in the Resurrection?	11:1-2	Jesus
April 24	Do You Believe That God Created Everything?	11:3	You
May 1	Do You Believe in the Rapture?	11:4-6	Enoch
May 8	Do You Believe in Noah and the Flood?	11:7	Noah
May 15	Do You Believe in Miracles?	11:8-16	Sarah
May 22	Do You Believe in Surrendering to God?	11:17-19	Abraham
May 29	Do You Believe God Holds Your Future?	11:20-22	Patriarchs
June 5	Do You Believe God is More Important Than Money?	11:23-27	Moses
June 12	Do You Believe in Divine Intervention?	11:28-29	Moses
June 19	Do You Believe God Can Use Sinful People?	11:30-31	Rahab
June 26	Do You Believe That You Have Enough Faith?	11:32-40	Others
More GF messages can be found at <a href="http://WhatsGrace.org/Watch">WhatsGrace.org/Watch</a>			

## What is a Hall of Fame Kind of Faith? (Hebrews 11:32-40)

### 1. A faith that is sure of what you are **hoping for** and certain of what you cannot see with your natural eyes (11:1)

- Question – Abraham and Sarah were hoping for a baby. Moses was hoping for freedom for his people. Rahab was hoping for rescue. What are you hoping for that you cannot see with your natural eyes?

### 2. A faith that God **commends** (11:2,39)

- martureo* = commends, to obtain a good report
- This word is used in v. 4 (Abel) and vv.5-6 (Enoch)
- Our “report cards” are based solely on faith (which is receiving)
- Jim Cymbala: “I have since learned that the most mature believer is the one who is bent over, leaning most heavily on the Lord, and admitting his total inability to do anything without Christ. The greatest Christian is not the one who has achieved the most but rather the one who has received the most. God’s grace, love, and mercy flow through him abundantly because he walks in total dependence.”
- Question: Am I trying to achieve? Or am I receiving by faith?

### 3. A faith that sees results in **this life** some of the time (11:33-35a)

Event in Verses 33-35a	Person	Scripture
“who by faith conquered kingdoms”	Gideon	Judges 6-9
	Barak	Judges 4-5
	Jephthah	Judges 11-12
	David	1 Sam 16-17; 2 Sam 5-12
“enforced justice”	Samuel	1 Samuel 12:3-5
“obtained promises”	Joshua	Joshua 23:14; 24:8-13
“stopped the mouths of lions”	Daniel	Daniel 6
	Samson	Judges 14:5
	David	1 Samuel 17:34
“quenched the power of fire”	Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego	Daniel 3
“escaped the edge of the sword”	Elijah	1 Kings 19; 2 Kings 1
	Elisha	2 Kings 6:8-23
	Jeremiah	Jeremiah 26:7-24
“were made strong out of weakness”	Samson	Judges 16:21-30
“became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight”	Samson	Judges 15
	David	1 Samuel 17
“women received back their dead by resurrection”	Widow of Zarephath	1 Kings 17:17-24 (Elijah)
	Shunammite woman	2 Kings 4:8-36 (Elisha)

### 4. A faith that sometimes only sees results in the **life to come** (11:35b-40)

Event in Verses 35b-38	Person	Scripture
“Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life”	Maccabean Jewish patriots of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Century BC	None (account recorded in apocrypha book 2 Maccabees 6:18-7:42)
“suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment”	Jeremiah	Jeremiah 20:2,7-8 Jeremiah 37:15-16
“they were stoned”	Zechariah	2 Chronicles 24:21
“they were sawed in two”	Isaiah	Tradition (by Manasseh)
“they were killed with the sword”	Uriah the prophet	Jeremiah 26:23; 1 Kings 19:10
“they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated”	Elijah	2 Kings 1:8
“wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth”	100 prophets hidden by Obadiah	1 Kings 18:4
	Elijah	1 Kings 19
	David	1 Samuel 22-26

- John Piper: “Through our faith God can and does work miracles and acts of providence to bring practical earthly help and deliverance to His people. But, God does not always work miracles and acts of providence for our deliverance from suffering; sometimes, by faith, God sustains His people through sufferings. Having faith is not the ultimate determining factor in whether you suffer or escape, God is – God’s sovereign will and wisdom and love. The common feature of the faith that escapes suffering and the faith that endures suffering is this: both of them involve believing that God Himself is better than what life can give to you now, and better than what death can take from you later. Those who love God more than life and suffer willingly awaiting something better than what this earth can offer, are God’s great gifts to the world.”

**5. A faith that ultimately looks to Jesus Christ and His new covenant** (11:35b,39-40)

- The old covenant could not make people holy/acceptable before God (Hebrews 10:1). Only through the blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ (new covenant) are we made holy and acceptable before our holy God (Hebrews 10:10,14).
- OT faith heroes looked and believed forward to the cross of Christ. We look and believe back to the cross of Christ for our salvation.
- Look to Jesus: “Jesus, I repent of my sin and look to You to forgive me and save me and for eternal life. Please lead my life!”
- Water Baptism is a tangible way to go public with your faith in Jesus. Our next immersion baptism service is Sunday, August 28, at 12:30pm: [WhatsGrace.org/baptisms-at-grace-fellowship](http://WhatsGrace.org/baptisms-at-grace-fellowship)

**6. A faith that is imperfect and flawed** (11:32-38)

<b>Faith Hero</b>	<b>Faith Hero’s Flaw and/or Lack of Faith</b>
Noah	Got drunk and naked after the flood was over.
Abraham/Sarah	Lied saying Sarah was his sister (vs. wife). Resorted to the Hagar solution to get a kid.
Isaac	Lied saying Rebekah was his sister (vs. wife).
Jacob	Cheated his brother out of birthright and blessing. Lied to his Dad. Deceived Laban.
Joseph	Was arrogant about his dreams.
Moses	Murdered an Egyptian. Gave excuses to God.
Rahab	Was a prostitute.
Gideon	Was a wimp – afraid to do anything. After all the victories God gave him, he created an idol to worship.
Barak	Was a wimp – would only go to battle if Deborah accompanied him.
Samson	Was a womanizer. Slept with prostitutes. Misused his power. Gave away his power to a nag.

Jephthah	Made a rash vow that killed his daughter.
David	Committed adultery with Bathsheba. Murdered Uriah who was one of his “mighty men.” Was an awful Dad.
Elijah	Chickened out when Jezebel threatened him. Quit the ministry prematurely.

**7. A faith that does not give up** (12:1-3)

- Because you are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses... **HANG IN THERE!!!! DON'T GIVE UP IN THE MIDST OF YOUR PAIN!! KEEP ON BELIEVING!!** Do not grow weary and lose heart. Run with perseverance the race marked out for you by...
  - throwing off everything that hinders
  - throwing off your besetting sin
  - fixing your eyes on Jesus – the ultimate example of persevering in the midst of difficulty!

**Sermon Series Application** – What do you want your faith epitaph to be this week? This year? At the end of your life?

**My “By Faith” Epitaph**

By faith...