

The Promise: Faith's Context

Hebrews 11:32-38

INTRODUCTION:

I. Faith in the Context of Triumph (vv.32-34)

A. Characters (4 judges, 1 king, 1 prophet-judge)

1. Gideon
2. Barak
3. Samson
4. Jephthah
5. David
6. Samuel
7. Prophets

B. Conquests (Judges, 1 & 2 Samuel, Daniel)

1. Conquered kingdoms
2. Enforced justice
3. Obtained promises
4. Stopped the mouths of lions
5. Quenched the power of fire
6. Escaped the edge of the sword
7. Were made strong out of weakness
8. Became mighty in war
9. Put foreign armies to flight

II. Faith in the Context of Suffering (vv.35-38)

A. Varied Sufferings

1. Death for resurrection
2. Torture
3. Mocking
4. Flogging
5. Imprisonment
6. Stonings (many prophets)
7. Sawn in two (trad. understanding of Isaiah's death)
8. Killed by the sword
9. Treated as outcasts (like lepers)
10. Homeless

B. Singular Purpose

1. God's Glory
2. Through Gifts of Grace

III. Faith in our Context

A. Know that victory is ours

1. Regardless of your battle, there is sure victory because of the resurrection
2. Imminent return of Christ

B. Remember this is not our home

1. The list reminds us of great faith that had sojourning at its heart
2. Others have lived this way, so must we

C. Death has lost it's sting

1. In showing all of the sufferings, torture, even deaths, the writer is helping the present audience associate with those who have gone before them
2. They have suffered persecution and the discouragement (mockery) of internal false teaching

D. Don't allow your sinful failures to defeat you in this world

1. All of these examples had serious sinful flaws...they confessed & repented
2. Several, at some point, questioned seriously what they were called to do...they prayed for merciful dealings by God for assurance
3. While we are not to sin to show how great God's grace is (Romans 6:1-2), when we do sin we are to go our Advocate, Jesus Christ (1 John 2:1-2) and, in a sense, boast gladly that our sins have been atoned for already.

E. Preach the gospel to yourself...daily

1. You have to trust God's sovereign administration of His promises. He may indeed give you great victory, or He may indeed allow you to suffer.
 - a) **2 Corinthians 2:9**
 - b) **Philippians 4:10-13**

2. The Gospel has secured all of this for God's children

3. You need to remember the gospel, because we have a tendency to drift into disbelief daily

CONCLUSION: