

## THE HALL OF FAITH - Part IV

Text: Hebrews 11:24-40

**Key Word:** Faith

**Key Thought:** What Kind of Faith Does God Want Us to Have?

Faith has been made so complicated that the people of God are not sure what it means to live their lives by faith. It has become a concept that is mysterious to many of us. We often are living it and not even knowing it. There are many levels of spiritual growth that are obtained through faith. These final three areas bring us into the lives of those who have maintained a consistent spiritual faith level. These Men and Women Had a . . .

**I. Stubborn Faith (Hebrews 11:24-29)**

**II. Subduing Faith (Hebrews 11:30-34)**

**III. Sustaining Faith (Hebrews 11:35-40)**

### **I. Stubborn Faith (Hebrews 11:24-29)**

There are times in our lives when we need to be stubborn and not move from what we believe is right. We do not have to accept everything that the world throws at us. There are times when we must STAND UP FOR TRUTH.

“All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.”

Edmund Burke

People of faith refuse to be swayed by those who try to OPPRESS and SUPPRESS the truth of God’s Word. This is one place where righteous indignation has its place. We should be speaking up about teenage pregnancy, abortion, euthanasia, infanticide, drunkenness, drug abuse, homosexuality, violence against women, criminal activities, adultery, greed, witchcraft, idolatry, jealousy, envy, etc. Anything the Bible addresses as sinful and evil we should also condemn it as unacceptable actions by ourselves and others while loving those who have been deceived.

Stubborn Faith often chooses the narrow, bumpy road of obedience. It decides on taking the least traveled road. There is a short thought that I once came across which helped me in my decisions. It told of a man who once came to a crossroads and was unsure which direction to turn. It reminded me of the many forks in the road that I’ve come to in my life. His concluding statement has offered me much guidance in my decisions. It states that he chose the road least traveled and that made all the difference. Moses traveled along this road many times.

Moses **refused** to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. He **regarded** disgrace better than Egypt’s treasures. His Stubborn Faith looked ahead at the **reward** that awaited him.

## I. Stubborn Faith (Hebrews 11:24-29) (Contd.)

\*\*\* Jim Elliot, a dedicated missionary in Ecuador who was killed by the Auca Indians in 1956, said it well: “Father, make of me a crisis man. Bring those I contact to a decision. Let me not be a milepost on a single road; make me a fork, that men must turn one way or another on facing Christ in me.” \*\*\*

Michael Green  
“Illustrations for Biblical Preaching”  
# 319, pp. 100-101  
Cited by Elizabeth Elliot  
“The Shadow of the Almighty”  
p. 59

Moses left Egypt to conquer a parched wilderness when most people were seeking to enjoy the pleasures of the palace. This Stubborn Faith was needed to bring the nation of Israel back to its land of promise. It took forty years to finally reach the banks of the Jordan River.

“Faith is to accept the impossible, do without the indispensable, and bear the intolerable.”

Dr. Paul Lee Tan  
“Encyclopedia of 7,700 Illustrations”  
# 1499 Epigram; p.405

### 1496 Faith and Doubt

Doubt sees the obstacles,  
Faith sees the way!  
Doubt sees the darkest night,  
Faith sees the day!  
Doubt dreads to take a step,  
Faith soars on high!  
Doubt questions, “Who believes?”  
Faith answers, “I!”

Gospel Banner  
Recorded by Dr. Paul Lee Tan  
“Encyclopedia of 7,700 Illustrations”  
p.40

## II. Subduing Faith (Hebrews 11:30-34)

The Stubborn faith of Moses and the children of Israel lead them right into **struggles** which continued to bring them beyond their own **strength** and knowledge to overcome. Faith can lead us into opportunities that no other quality of our character is able to. Faith MUST begin with an assurance that God is with us no matter what we see.

\*\*\* Years ago I watched a series of interviews by James Robison with the ex-president and founder of the P.T.L. ministry, Jim Bakker. He had just completed a book titled *"I was Wrong."* The book explained the ordeal that he went through in his journey back to God. He had allowed the deceitfulness of riches to cloud his judgements. He ended up with a 45-year prison sentence which he served for eight years before being released.

He told of the dark days when he felt that God had left him. As he walked through his personal *"valley of the shadow of death"* he came to realize through the Scriptures that God would never leave him or forsake him. True faith was birthed within his heart. This faith was built upon the Word of God and not some man-made teaching. He is now a walking testimony of one who has journeyed through the wilderness and obtained a level that could be described as Subduing Faith. \*\*\*

### A. Joshua (Hebrews 11:29-30)

These next five verses in the book of Hebrews (11:30-34) describe the personal journey of men and women who faced overwhelming odds and yet rose to conquer them. Joshua led the children of Israel against the most fortified city in all of the land of Canaan. The battle was carefully orchestrated by God Himself in order to portray to the world that no man-made fortress can stand against the Lord. The key to the victory was a complete obedience to the instructions that God gave him even though it sounded ridiculous.

### B. Rahab (Hebrews 11:31)

At this same time another figure stands out displaying her faith. Rahab, the prostitute, was willing to act on her faith in such a way that her entire family escaped death as the city was taken. She put what little faith she had in action. It grew quickly to a Subduing Faith.

## II. Subduing Faith (Hebrews 11:30-34) (Contd.)

### C. Gideon/Deborah (Hebrews 11:32)

The list goes on to describe those who were weak in their own estimation and yet strong in the Lord. They were nothing without God. Gideon saw himself from the weakest clan in the tribe of Manasseh and himself as the least in his family (Judges 5:14). God called him a **“mighty warrior or mighty man of valor”** (Judges 6:12). He was greatly used to deliver his people from the oppressive hands of the Midianites.

Barak would not go into battle against Sisera, the commander of the king of Hazor in Canaan without Deborah (Judges 4:8). He faltered in his faith for a short time. It took Deborah in her role as the channel of God’s blessing that Barak finally entered the field of battle and overcame the enemy. Deborah could see by a Subduing Faith that God was before them.

*“Then Deborah said to Barak, ‘Go! This is the day the LORD has given Sisera into your hands. Has not the LORD gone ahead of you?”*

*Judges 4:14*

The Bible states that Barak advanced against the 900 chariots of Sisera and his army and that not one of Sisera’s troops survived the battle. They eventually overcame even king Jabin. God caused this weak-kneed soldier to lead one of the nation’s greatest victories.

### D. Samson (Hebrews 11:32)

Have you ever wondered why God would see fit to include Samson in His Hall of Faith? After all wasn’t he a pitiful example of someone who fell away from God!!! We must be careful not to categorize people in such a way that they don’t appear as the COMPLETE Biblical account of them. We can so easily harp on his weakness with adultery. We can highlight how he wandered in darkness after having his eyes gouged out and his hair cut.

**But we must remember that God wrote the final lines in his eulogy.** His prayer to God for revenge of his enemies was answered or he never would have been able to move the pillars that were the main support of the heathen temple where he and his foes died. He killed more of his enemies at his point of death than he had ever in his lifetime (Judges 16:30).

Samson subdued his enemies by faith when everyone had given up on him. His story is being retold through the lives of many people, perhaps even including you. This kind of faith conquers the kingdoms of this world; it sets a proper authority in the spiritual realm; it receives the promises of God; it closes the mouths of hungry lions; and escapes the sword. It turns weakness into strength (II Corinthians 12:10) and causes battles to be won. It takes Subduing Faith to have a come back like this.

### III. Sustaining Faith (Hebrews 11:35-40)

It's one thing to win a battle. It's quite another to remain true to God when the enemy is temporarily advancing. Not all of our lives will end in a time of splendor. Some of God's people have suffered great persecution. They were victims of tyranny, tortures, chaining, flogging, stoning to death, sawed in two, used as victims of violence while the crowds jeered at them. The Bible calls them destitute, persecuted, and mistreated. These words seem to fall short of the atrocities which were committed against them.

According to some teaching today, they would be considered as lacking in their faith. God includes them in His Hall of Faith. The Holy Spirit said,

*"The world was not worthy of them."*

*Hebrews 11:38*

**God has an entirely different value system than our world does.** Some of the great ones in God's kingdom are those who are presently despised by the world. **Faith enables us to suffer with dignity.** Faith does not depend upon whether we live or die, but rather **HOW we Live and HOW we Die.** Sustaining Faith can take us to our grave with an assurance that we've fought and won.

*"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.  
8. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day - and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing."*

*II Timothy 4:7,8*

C:\My Documents\WPWin(X9)\Sermons.2018\Faith/Heb 11\_24.40wpd

Date: Nov 11/18

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: Through our God - Em; My Father is in Control - Em

## THE HALL OF FAITH - Part IV

Text: Hebrews 11:24-40

**Key Word:** Faith

**Key Thought:** What Kinds of Faith Does God Want Us to Have?

These final three areas bring us into the lives of those who have maintained a consistent spiritual faith level. **These Men and Women Had a . . .**

### **I. Stubborn Faith (Hebrews 11:24-29)**

“Faith is to accept the impossible, do without the indispensable, and bear the intolerable.”

Dr. Paul Lee Tan  
“*Encyclopedia of 7,700 Illustrations*”  
# 1499 Epigram; p.405

### **II. Subduing Faith (Hebrews 11:30-34)**

A. Joshua (Hebrews 11:29-30)

B. Rahab (Hebrews 11:31)

C. Gideon/Deborah (Hebrews 11:32) - *Judges 5:14; Judges 6:12; Judges 4:8; Judges 4:14*

D. Samson (Hebrews 11:32) - *Judges 16:30; II Corinthians 12:10*

### **III. Sustaining Faith (Hebrews 11:35-40) - Hebrews 11:38; II Timothy 4:7,8**