

Others: The Triumph of Faith

Hebrews 11:32-40

Introduction

Chapter 11 of Hebrews closes with a sweeping view of "others" who triumphed by faith in the midst of various circumstances. The first group of "others" triumphed by faith in overcoming their situations. While flawed, they believed and experienced victory; despite their challenges and weaknesses, they made it into the hall of faith.

The second group triumphed through their suffering. These heroes of the faith did not necessarily experience deliverance, but instead experienced God's power as He granted them the ability to go through their trials. They believed and experienced how to have victory in the midst of hard times. Victory can be experienced through overcoming, but it can also be experienced by the believer who endures as God walks with them through their circumstances.

The means of our triumph is born from having an eternal perspective; whether we get over a trial or walk through it. The more you focus on eternity, the better you are able to handle the challenges of history. You can triumph over your circumstances or you can triumph through them. Either way, faith is the key to experience victory, to know what it means to be a triumphant Christian, and to understand what it is to walk in victory and not in defeat.

This chapter on faith culminates with a listing of many people with different stories, backgrounds, and events. The conclusion allows us each to put our names there and know that we can also experience victories of faith, as so many people did in God's Word. Believe that God is who He says He is and that He can do what He says He can do. By making that choice, you will know what it means to triumph over or through whatever twists and turns life sends your way.

Getting Started

1. As we bring the series on faith to a close, take a moment to look back and reflect on the various faith characters from Hebrews chapter 11. Which was your favorite and why? With which personal story could you most identify?
2. Hebrews 11: 32-40 lists a number of different people and circumstances without going into great detail. Do you know more about the stories to which this passage of scripture refers? Take a moment and read over this passage then take turns sharing some of these faith stories within your group.

Let's Get Personal

1. We learned that many in the hall of faith triumphed through suffering yet they were not necessarily delivered. What does this mean for your own faith walk? Can you be a hero of faith, but pass on without seeing your victory in its fullness? What does this teach us about how we should live in spite of suffering?
2. God allowed those with visible weakness to be part of the hall of faith. What does that show about how God views His people?
3. Having the kind of faith described in Hebrews chapter 11 is possible when we operate with a belief that our faith and trust in God will matter for eternity. Do you struggle with maintaining an eternal focus? Share with your group.

Take the Next Step

1. Write out your own hall of faith caption. At the end of your days what could someone read about your relentless faith in God and His everlasting faithfulness towards you? Use this time to "think big" and include something that you are trusting God for, however it is not yet fulfilled.
2. At the end of the day faith is not a feeling; it is a matter of function. After many weeks of hearing about the importance of faith and hearing a variety of faith stories, how will you put feet to your faith? Share one area in which your group can hold you accountable as we conclude this series.

Renew Your Mind

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen..." Hebrews 11:1
