



## Lesson 58

### Lesson 58: What Is Faith? (Part 14) Faith of Moses

Scripture: Hebrews 11:24-27

#### Why So Much About Faith?

- God promises that many will fall away from the faith. (2 Thess. 2:3)
- The Spirit promises some will depart the faith. (1 Timothy 4:1)
- Churches will be filled with “professors” and not “possessors” of faith. 2 Tim 3:1-3; 2 Timothy 4:3-4)
- Christ asks, “When the Son of Man comes (returns) will He really find faith. (Luke 18:8)

#### Moses’ Faith in His Choices (vv. 24-26)

- Biblical faith is more than “believing in” or “accepting” Christ as a personal Saviour. Biblical faith lives itself out in our **choices!**
- It demonstrates in the lives of its disciples who live out Christ’s words of **denying self, taking up their crosses, and following Him.** (Luke 9:23)
- Meditate on Paul’s words in Philippians 3:7-10.
- In **conversion** there is a **TURNING AWAY FROM** something and a **TURNING TO** something new. **In order for this to happen the thing TURNED TO must be considered of greater value than the thing TURNED AWAY from.** (1 Thessalonians 1:9)
- This we see in Moses’ faith:
  - ① **He refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter** (with all the privileges and pleasures that went with this title).
    - He was turning his back on **the world.** (Contrast 2 Tim 3:1-5)
    - He was **denying self.**
  - We are **often** called upon to **chose** between **GOD** and **things, duty, and pleasure!** *We ought to ask ourselves:*
    - What is my **first** care in my life?
    - What is my **chief** delight? – Consider Psalm 84:10; Psalm 1:1-3!
  - Biblical faith **“overcomes the world”** (1 John 5:4) and **NOT** one that allows its possessor to be **overcome.** (Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 17, 21)

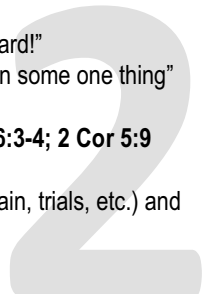
- Moses' faith was a **firm resolution** of his mind.
  - Moses' faith enabled him to **act** on what he decided in his mind. Moses' faith was **demonstrated** by what he did and not what he **resolved** or what he said. (James 2:14-26)
  - Moses' faith was not according to **worldly reason!** Could Moses not stay in Egypt and use his influence to change Pharaoh?
- ② **He chose to suffer affliction with the people of God!**
- There must be a *turning away and turning to* in true conversion!
    - See Isaiah 1:16, 17; Amos 5:15; Proverbs 28:13; 1 Thess. 1:9
  - Moses refused **pleasure** and chose **suffering** instead!! (See 2 Tim 3:4)
    - Moses understood that **sin was against God!** He would rather **please** God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin even for a little time!
  - Sin separates from God (Isaiah 59:2); but affliction draws one closer to God. (Psalm 119:67, 71, 75)
  - Affliction hurts the body, but sin affects the soul.
  - Friendship with the world is enmity with God! (James 4:4)
  - Moses chose **GOD!**
  - **NOTE:** Fellowship with God's people involves some form of suffering! (See Acts 14:22; 2 Timothy 3:12)
  - We are commanded to **believe** and to **suffer!** In fact, we have been granted the privilege. (Philippians 1:29)

### Counting the Cost (v. 26)

- (v. 26) "esteeming" ἡγήσομαι hegeomai {hayg-eh'-om-ah-ee} – "to make careful thought about a subject"
- Moses thought hard about leaving the **riches of Egypt** for the **reproach of Christ**. (Luke 14:28-33)
- **His conclusion:** Anything that he would suffer for Christ's sake was **still** worth greater than **all** the riches of Egypt!!!
- The **Messiah** (Christ) has *always* identified with His people and His people *always* identify with Him. He suffered for us and with us, and we are to suffer for His sake! Heb 13:12-13; **Acts 5:41**; 1 Peter 4:14; Matt 5:10-12.

### Far Seeing Faith

- Biblical faith is **long distance seeing!** "He looked to the reward!"
  - ★ "to turn the eyes away from other things and fix them on some one thing"
  - ★ IMPERFECT tense: "He kept on looking."
  - ★ **Consider Psalm 119:37; Prov 4:25; 23:4-5; Isaiah 26:3-4; 2 Cor 5:9**
- Today people want what they want **right now!**
- Biblical faith looks past **today** (with all of its circumstances, pain, trials, etc.) and forward to the time when we will be with God!



- Christ is our Example – see Hebrews 12:1-2.
- Paul tells us in Romans 8:18, “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us!”
- In 2 Corinthians 4:17-18, Paul says, “for our *light affliction*, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.”
- **GOD HIMSELF IS OUR GREAT REWARD!** (Genesis 15:1; Psalm 73:25-26)

## What is YOUR Choice?

### A Fearless, Forsaking All, and Enduring Faith (v. 27)

- Two times Moses left Egypt:
  - ① The first time in **FEAR!** See Exodus 2:14-15.
  - ② The second time **FEARLESS!** (Hebrews 11:27)
    - ❶ The first time as a criminal.
    - ❷ The second time as commander of God’s people!

### Moses’ Fearless Faith

#### • EXAMPLES OF MOSES’ FEARLESS FAITH:

- ① God commanded Moses to go to Pharaoh and **demand** that he, Pharaoh, release the Israelites! (Read Exodus 5:1).
  - Moses has no army to back him up.
  - No one in Pharaoh’s court stood by Moses’ request or even knows Moses!
  - The one Moses was sent to was the most powerful monarch on earth!
  - When he delivered his God-given message Moses was met with an **unfavorable** reception – read Exodus 5:2.
- ② Pharaoh made life miserable for the Israelites after Moses delivered his demand to Pharaoh resulting in the Israelites not receiving Moses very well. (Ex. 5:21)
- ③ God commanded Moses to return to Pharaoh and, again, demand the release of the Israelites threatening him with the turning of the Pharaoh’s River into blood — after God had told Moses that He had **hardened** Pharaoh’s heart! (See Exodus **7:3-4**, 16-18)
- ④ In his final message to Pharaoh, Moses threatens death of all firstborn of all who live in Egypt **and** all of Pharaoh’s servants will bow down **to** Moses!! (See Exodus 11:4-8)
- ⑤ When faced with the Red Sea before him, Pharaoh and his mighty army behind him, and complaining men, women, and children in his midst, Moses’ faith did not fail! (See Exodus 14:10-12, 13-14)

- **YET**, Moses FEARED NOT the king!
  - Moses was not occupied with the threats of the king (i.e. Exodus 10:28) but was **focused** on God's Word – specifically His promise in Exodus 3:12!
- **HOW DOES MOSES' TRIALS COMPARE TO OUR "PETTY" FEARS?**
  - Consider God's Word of promise **to us** in Hebrews 13:5-6.

## Moses' "Forsaking ALL" Faith

- God given faith turns its back on EGYPT, a picture of the "world."
  - Abraham **left** idolatrous Chaldea/Ur.
  - Ruth **left** Moab.
- **WE ARE COMMANDED TO SEPARATE OURSELVES AS WELL!** (2 Cor. 6:14-17; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17)
- It was God's command that all ISRAEL should LEAVE Egypt! (Exodus 5:1)
- Moses had to **fight** Pharaoh's temptations to **COMPROMISE!**
  - Pharaoh would compromise with Israel sacrificing ***in the land.***" (8:25)
  - Pharaoh would compromise with Israel sacrificing ***not far away.***" (8:28)
  - Pharaoh would compromise with ***only the men going.*** (10:9-11)
  - Pharaoh would compromise with Israel's flocks and herds ***remaining behind.*** (10:24-26)
- Christ calls us to **FORSAKE ALL** for Him. Luke 14:33

## Moses' Enduring Faith

- Faced with Pharaoh's strength, power, and threats Moses **endured**.
- Faced with the task of leading and organizing complaining people Moses **endured**.
- Meditate on Matthew 10:22; 24:11-13; Hebrews 3:6, 14; 6:10-12; Colossians 1:21-23.
- GOD'S PROMISE: Philippians 1:6

## The "Secret" of Moses' Faith (v. 27)

- The SECRET was "**seeing** Him who is **invisible.**" (Romans 1:20; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17)
  - God was *always* before him! (See **Isaiah 26:3-4**; **Psalm 16:8**)
- Abraham **saw** Christ's day! (John 8:56)
- Job **saw** God with his eyes of faith. (Job 42:5)

## What Is YOUR Response?

- Job 42:6; Luke 17:5-6; Mark 9:23-24

