



Lesson 60

Lesson 60: What Is Faith? (Part 16) Faith of Israel

Scripture: Hebrews 11:29-30

Are We Examining Our Faith? (2 Corinthians 13:5)

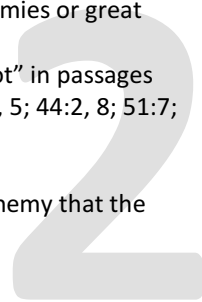
- (v. 4) Abel's faith was an obedient faith and he worshiped God in accordance to God's will.
 - (vv. 5-6) Enoch's faith was an obedient faith in that he walked with God and did that which pleased God.
 - (v. 7) Noah's faith was an obedient faith in that he believed God and did whatever God commanded despite human reasoning.
 - (vv. 8-19) Abraham's faith was an obedient faith in that he trusted God's promises and waited on the Lord.
 - (v. 11) Sarah's faith was an obedient faith in trusting in the promises of God.
 - (vv. 13-16) These saints saw God's promises, embraced God's promises, were persuaded by God's promises, and confessed their faith in God's promises. These longed for a better homeland.
 - (v. 20) Isaac's faith was an obedient faith in that, though he was deceived by Jacob, submitted to the sovereign will of God.
 - (v. 21) Jacob's faith was an obedient faith in that he did not compromise even when it came to the desires of family.
 - (v. 22) Joseph's faith was an obedient faith in that he believed God's word despite what seemed impossible and very difficult circumstances! Joseph's faith was a forgiving faith.
 - (v. 23) Moses' parents' faith was an obedient faith in that they heard God's Word (though spoken many, many years earlier) and obeyed. Their faith was a trusting faith.
 - (vv. 24-28) Moses' faith was an obedient faith in that it was a fearless faith as he saw "the Invisible" and in seeing he overcame all the obstacles before him. His faith was a forsaking all faith for the sake of God and his people.
- **IS OUR FAITH A BIBLICAL FAITH?**

A Difficulty! (Hebrews 11:29 and Hebrews 3:18-19)

- Here in 11:29 we are told, “By faith they passed through . . .” and in 3:18-19 it is recorded that “. . . they could not enter in because of unbelief.”
- Was their faith a **temporary** one like those that Christ taught in Matthew 13:20-22? **MEDITATE ON THESE VERSES!** These verses ought to cause us to pray everyday for **REAL FAITH**.
- The writer of Hebrews is describing **REAL** faith throughout all of chapter 11!
- The **HOLY SPIRIT** uses the pronoun **they** instead of the “*children of Israel*” – Deuteronomy teaches us that “these” did not have faith!!!! (Deut. 32:20)
- READ Romans 9:6; 2:28-29
- **NOTE:** Unbelievers are frequently recipients of temporal blessings as a result of their association with true believers. Another example are the unbelievers on the ship that was taking Paul to Rome. (See Acts 27:24)

Believers and the Lessons for the Red Sea (Exodus 14)

- ① Believers are **called** upon to face **great** trials!
 - **MARK THIS:** It was **NOT** the enemy who put the Red Sea where it was. Nor did the enemy lead God’s people to the Sea! **It was God Himself!!** Meditate on Romans 11:36; Ephesians 1:11; Romans 8:28
 - The **NARROW PATH** (Matthew 7:13-14) is marked with many trials and tribulations that are put there to **TEST** our sincerity of our trust of God.
 - God **TESTS** faith to:
 - To **REFINE** and **STRENGTHEN** real faith.
 - To **SEPARATE** false faith.
 - Paul tells us that we ought to **test** our own faith to see if it is **REAL** or **REPROBATE**. See 2 Corinthians 13:5.
- ② Sometimes **REAL SAINTS** are terrified at powerful enemies or great obstacles!
 - **REAL FAITH** **overcomes** these fears! (See “Fear Not” in passages such as Genesis 15:1; Isaiah 41:10, 13, 14; 43:1, 5; 44:2, 8; 51:7; 54:14)
- ③ Sometimes **REAL SAINTS** suffer from **faint hearts**.
 - **WARNING:** A faint heart in a believer is a worse enemy than the devil himself!



- We need to **FIX** our eyes on our GOD to have perfect peace. (Isa. 26:3-4; 31:1; 48:2; 1 Chronicles 5:20; 2 Chronicles 13:18; 14:11; 16:8.
- ④ God has instructed His believers in how to act in the midst of great trials.
 - ① FEAR NOT!
 - ② STAND STILL (Stop relying on your own strength and the man [Jeremiah 17:5-8; Psalm 118:8-9; 146:3-4; Isaiah 2:22; 30:1-7; 31:1-9; 36:6])
 - ③ SEE the SALVATION of the LORD (remember His promises to be with you – Hebrew 13:5; Deuteronomy 31:6, 8; Joshua 1:5; 1 Samuel 12:22; 1 Chronicles 28:20; Psalm 37:28; Isaiah 41:10; **43:2**)
 - ④ GO FORWARD on the path of **OBEDIENCE!**
 - ⑤ PASS THROUGH (Hebrews 11:29) – the saints persisted in their march **through** the Red Sea! They did not stop until they were **through** and **then** they could SHOUT for JOY!!
 - ⑥ Watch the **PROVIDENCE** of God. **NOTE:** God put the Red Sea where it was and it was God who led the people to its shores and it was God who hardened Pharaoh’s heart to pursue His people – the TRIAL was from GOD and **He, and He alone, can get you through it!!!**

REAL FAITH Does Things God’s Way (Hebrews 11:30; Joshua 6)

- A TEST for the NEW GENERATION!
- JERICHO —
 - A key city at the very entrance of the promise land.
 - A fortified city (see Deuteronomy 1:28; 9:1-2; Numbers 13:28-33)
 - Failure to capture this city would only bring great discouragement.
- (Joshua 6:1-2) THE PROMISE OF GOD – **THE WORD OF GOD HIMSELF!**
- (Joshua 6:3-4, 10) The **detailed** instruction of the LORD – the One who had PROMISED!
- CAN ONE CLAIM THE PROMISES OF GOD WITHOUT OBEDIENCE? **NO! NO!**

Lessons at Jericho for the Believer

- ① God’s ways are much different from ours! (Isaiah 55:8-9)
 - God’s are RIGHT and the BEST of ways.
 - The plans and things highly esteemed by men are **abominations** before God! (Luke 16:15)



- ② God is **never** limited in how He will accomplish His plans and purposes!
- All of His creation is at His disposal.
- The power of all His might is always available to Him!
- ③ In **walking** in the will of God one can always expect REAL difficulties and REAL obstacles.
- The flooding Jordan and Jericho were REAL obstacles in the path of faith for the Israelites!
 - **BUT** all obstacles are LESS than NOTHING before the Almighty God.
 - Each obstacle or difficulty is put in our path for the testing and the training of our faith. We **need** to **learn** to rejoice in our TROUBLES! (See James 1:2, 12; Matthew 5:10-12; **2 Corinthians 7:4; 12:9-10**; Hebrews 10:34; Acts 5:41; Romans 5:3; 1 Peter 4:13-16)
- ④ Any STRONGHOLD or OBSTACLE can **never** stand before an **OBEDIENT** people who are **TRUSTING** in the living God!
- ⑤ **VICTORY COMES THROUGH FAITH!** See 1 John 5:4-5; John 16:33; Romans 8:35-37; Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21; 12:11.

ARE WE PRAYING,
“Lord, increase our faith; help our unbelief.”

