

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS



13. A Call to Live by Faith (2)

(Leader's Copy)

Introduction

There is a verse that says, 'These three remain: faith, hope and love.' In the previous study we learnt that faith is not just wishful thinking, but is based on a word or promise from God. Now we are going to see that faith is important, not only in this life, but for eternity. As 1 Corinthians 13:13 says, 'It remains.'

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 11:20-40

Part 2 - The faith of Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses and the Children of Israel

- ❖ How did Isaac, Jacob and Joseph demonstrate their faith at the time of their death? V20-22. Also see Genesis 27:27-29, 47:29-31, 48:20-21, 50:24-25.
(They blessed their sons and grandsons, believing this would come to pass in future generations – and it did. Jacob and Joseph believed that the land God had promised Abraham would be their inheritance, and so requested that their remains be taken back there.)
- ❖ What were the things that Moses believed, which influenced his actions? V26-28
(He believed that the disgrace for the sake of Christ was of greater value than the treasures of Egypt. I.e. That the things which are eternal are of more value than the things of this world. Also he believed that there is a God who is invisible, unlike the Egyptians who worshipped idols.)
- ❖ What choices did Moses make, based on these beliefs? What did these choices mean for him? V24-25, 27-28
 - i. *He refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter*
 - ii. *He chose to be mistreated with the people of God*
 - iii. *He forsook the treasures of Egypt*
 - iv. *He left Egypt*
 - v. *He kept the Passover)*

Share

How does Moses' example of faith challenge you personally? What has your faith cost you?

- ❖ What fears and obstacles do you think the Children of Israel had to overcome in the situations that are mentioned in v29-31?

Part 3 – Faith of others

This last section is a summary of many other men and women of faith who lived through the centuries of Israel's history until the time of Christ.

- ❖ What great things were accomplished by faith in v32-35? In contrast, what sufferings did others go through that also displayed faith in v35-38? Can you think of some present day examples of this kind of faith?
- ❖ According to v38-40, what three things are true of these heroes who have suffered for their faith?
 - (i. *The world was not worthy of them.*
 - ii. *They were commended for their faith.*
 - iii. *None of them received what had been promised!*)
- ❖ Why do you think it says, 'none of these received what had been promised'? Look at v10, 16, 26, 40
(*None of these heroes of faith saw the complete fulfilment of the promises that God had made. E.g. Abraham never saw his descendants as numerous as the stars, only the beginning of the fulfilment. The ultimate fulfilment was to be in Christ and his resurrection.*)

Share

As we have looked at the different heroes of faith, whose example has challenged you the most? Share your thoughts.

Conclusion

It is easy to believe that men and women of faith will accomplish great things for God. However, as we have seen, it also requires great faith to stand strong in the face of difficulties and persecution. God sees things very differently to the way we do. He is looking for those who will trust him, no matter what happens. Will you be one of them?