



Never Give Up

Series: *Faith* Hebrews 11:29-38

April 29, 2018

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*Faith is a **tangible** expression'*

There are two groups...

GROUP 1:

Those who accomplished **great** things by God's power through faith

GROUP 2:

There were **others**

Hebrews 11:35-38

Four 'aspects' of faith...

1. Our faith has absolute **certainty**

Hebrews 11:1

2. Our faith is not in this **world**

Hebrews 11:38; Joshua 6:2

3. Our faith is not a **magic** formula

Hebrews 11:37

4. Our faith is in the **character** of God

Joshua 10:12-13

Growth Group Questions

All references from New International Version (NIV)

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. Brian said that faith is not just something we read about and study, we live it. Have you ever met someone for the first time and got the sense they were a Christian? What was it that may have given you that sense?
2. In order for our faith to grow, sometimes we need 'faith stretchers'. What are some things that have stretched your faith this past year? Have you grown?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. On Sunday we heard Tina Leonard share her story of 'faith in the midst of a bad diagnosis'. Her husband Brian referenced James 1:2-3 which says, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance." What do these verses say about the 'testing of our faith'?

Matthew 13:20-21

²⁰ The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.

Romans 5:3-4

³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope.

1 Peter 1:6-7

⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Hebrews 6:11-12

¹¹ We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. ¹² We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

What is one of your ‘take-aways’ from Tina’s testimony?

When you are feeling overwhelmed with the ‘stuff of life’, what do you do?

- A) Suck it up and pretend everything’s fine;
- B) Call a good Christian friend;
- C) Pray;
- D) Cry;
- E) Other

2. From Hebrews 11:35, Brian talked about two different groups. Group 1 are those who have accomplished great things by God’s power through faith, and Group 2 are “the others”. The “others” are those who went through torture because of their relationship with Jesus Christ, and they stayed faithful. Read the following verses and identify ways to stay faithful.

Deuteronomy 5:32-33

³² So be careful to do what the LORD your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left. ³³ Walk in obedience to all that the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess.

1 Corinthians 10:12-13

¹² So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall! ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

Hebrews 4:14-16

¹⁴ Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. ¹⁶ Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

1 Peter 4:19

¹⁹ So then, those who suffer according to God’s will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

When persecution comes to the church, it is one of the best ways to learn who is a true Christian and who isn’t. Why do you think that is?

Share a time in your ‘faith journey’ when you were in Group 1 and God was accomplishing great things by His power through you.

3. In Hebrews 11:38 the writer of Hebrews says about the suffering Christians, “...the world is not worthy of them.” Our faith is not in this world. What do these verses say about ‘faith in God’ versus ‘faith in the world’?

Romans 12:2

² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

James 4:4

⁴ You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

1 John 2:15-17

¹⁵ Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. ¹⁶ For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

1 John 3:13

¹³ Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you.

How do you know if you’re starting to get a little too ‘friendly’ with the world? What do you do to correct that behavior?

What do your non-Christian friends and family members hope in? How could a conversation about ‘hope’ set you up to talk to them about Jesus?

4. Brian wrapped up the sermon Sunday talking about the time in the Bible when Joshua was fighting against the Amorites, and the Israelites were winning, but the sun was going down. So Joshua prayed for God to cause the sun to stand still, and God did it. What does this verse tell us about God’s power?

1 Corinthians 6:14

¹⁴ By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also.

In what ways would you like to see God’s power work in your life this week?

TAKING IT HOME

Based on this week’s sermon and homework, what is the most important thing for you to remember and why?