

THE STUDY OF HEBREWS—YEAR 2
LESSON 17—QUESTIONS
HEBREWS 11:32-40
FAITH TRUSTS GOD IN SPITE OF RESULTS

As you begin your study this week pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal truth and wisdom.

READ HEBREWS 11:32-40

1. In Hebrews 11:33-38, list the things these and other unnamed heroes accomplished or suffered because of their faith.

Accomplishments by faith (verses 33-35a) _____

Sufferings by faith (verses 35b-38) _____

1a. Do you recognize any of the unnamed heroes of faith referred to by their accomplishments or sufferings above? _____

1b. What thoughts cross your mind as you reflect on the accomplishments and sufferings of these faithful saints? _____

2. Hebrews 11:35b-38 causes us to realize that faith in God does not guarantee a positive or miraculous outcome. Why is this important for us to understand? How do the following scriptures confirm this fundamental truth?

John 15:18-20 _____

1 Pet. 1:6-7 _____

2 Tim. 3:11-12 _____

James 1:2-4 _____

2a. Warren Wiersbe states, *“Faith enables us to turn from the approval of the world and seek only the approval of God. If God is glorified by delivering His people, He will do it. If He sees fit to be glorified by not delivering His people, then He will do that.”* How does faith enable us to seek only God’s approval? How could God be more glorified by *not* delivering us from suffering than from delivering us from it? Please explain.

3. Jesus and the apostles prepared believers to understand persecution. What promises do the following verses give to those who suffer?

Matt. 5:10-12 _____

John 16:33 _____

James 1:12 _____

1 Pet. 4:12-14 _____

4. During this time of uncertainty and watching the change in our country, we have witnessed the hate many have for us. This has caused me to evaluate my heart and I have had to ask myself; *“Will you be like these faithful saints that stood for the Lord during unspeakable persecutions, never turning back from your confession of faith?” “Will you remain steadfast and faithful in great pain and punishment?”* I have had to confess to the Lord that I am a big chicken.☺ But the Lord in his great mercy understands our human frailty. For *“he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest”* (Heb.2:17). Take a moment to reflect on this...if the Lord requires, will you be included in the roll call of a persecuted saint? _____

4a. What assurance and instruction does Jesus give us in the following scripture?

Mark 13:9-13 _____

Luke 21:12-15 _____

5. As to our behavior and conduct during ill-treatment or persecution, what do these verses teach us? Luke 6:27-36; 1 Pet. 2:21-24.

6. Faith is powerful enough to conquer cities, transform lives, subdue kingdoms, stop the mouths of lions, and accomplish other supernatural events (11:30-35). Men and women of God were tortured, ridiculed, mocked, stoned, imprisoned, and scourged. They lived in caves and dens in the earth (11:35-39). Why did they endure such ill treatment (11:35)? _____

6a. What is the “*better resurrection*”? _____

6b. Regardless of outcome, what commendation from the Lord are these faithful given in Heb. 11:38a? _____

6c. What did they receive for their willingness to live by faith (11:39a)? _____

7. In 11:40, the author of Hebrews actually links the current audience together with the faithful of the past. What is the “*something better*” that perfects us and those who have gone before us? Compare Hebrews 7:19, 22. _____

8. As we come to the end of chapter 11, think about your own life of faith. In what ways does the list of the faithful in Hebrews 11 encourage you? Challenge you? Intimidate you? You may not have to face physical battles or starvation, but your trials are still real and difficult. How has your faith changed after examining the faithful lives of the saints in Hebrews 11?

BONUS QUESTION:

You do not have to answer this question but will get the last “trinket”(hint) if you do.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.