

The Faith of Israel

Aug 5, 2018

Examples of Faith (Heb 11)

The people (11) of the old generation - Heb 11:4-29

Abel (11:4)	Abraham (11:8-18)	Jacob (11:21)	Moses (11:24-28)
Enoch (11:5)	Sarah (11:11)	Joseph (11:22)	The people of Israel (11:29)
Noah (11:7)	Isaac (11:20)	Moses' parents (11:23)	

The people (9) of new generation 11:30 -32

The people of Israel (11:30)	Barak (11:32)	David (11:32)
Rahab (11:3)	Samson (11:32)	Samuel (11:32)
Gideon (11:32)	Jephthah (11:32)	All the prophets (11:32)

Israel - The Old generation

Heb 11:29 By faith they passed through the Red Sea as though they were passing through dry land; and the Egyptians, when they attempted it, were drowned.

Don't follow the crowd – rarely does a group respond in to God in faith.

This is the only time in Heb 11 that faith is referring to a group of people.

Faith operates through the freedom of personal choice; a decision that can't be made for you.

Jos 24:15 "choose for yourselves today whom you will serve, ... but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Don't focus on your problems, be aware of God's presence and promise.

The faith of the old generation (Ex 13 - 14) How does Israel respond in faith at the Red Sea?

They were saved from "death of the first born" through the blood of the Passover lamb (Ex 13).

When they see the Egyptians pursuing them - they are afraid

Ex 14:10 the sons of Israel looked, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they became very frightened; so the sons of Israel cried out to the LORD.

Fear leads to regret and negative talk

Ex 14:12 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness."

Sometimes (when in fear) we need to shut up.

Ex 14:14 "The LORD will fight for you while you keep silent."

Faith stands firm and waits (is still) for what God will do.

Ex 14:13 But Moses said to the people, "Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the LORD which He will accomplish for you today;

Faith allows us to hear God and does (obeys) what He instructs (Ex 14:15-22, 26-27).

Ex 14:21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; ...

God responds to faith - working miracles on our behalf (Ex 14:15-31).

Ex 14:21 ... and the LORD swept the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, so the waters were divided.

And then they experienced victory (Ex 14:22-29).

At the Red Sea the Israelites willingly went forward at God's command rather than giving in to fear by turning back. Their trust and obedience resulted in victory over their enemy.

This Red Sea victory is celebrated often in Scripture, it declares God's sovereign power and demonstrates His unfailing love for His covenant people.

(Ex 15:1-21; Ps 106:9-12; 114:3-5; Isa 43:16-18; 44:27; 51:9-11)

The action of the people in crossing the sea indicates that they shared the faith of Moses. Faith in the reality of the presence of God, gave them an ability to overcome their initial fear that could have paralyzed them.

The New generation

Heb 11: 30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days.

God's promises are obtained as we engage in spiritual warfare.

The weapons of spiritual warfare have divine power to destroy strongholds

2Cor 10:4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.

God uses strategies that appear foolish - to accomplish His purposes.

1Cor 1:23-25 we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, 24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. (1Cor 1:18-29)

1Cor 2:1-5 And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. 3 I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, 4 and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

God sees us in a positive light as we respond in faith.

In Heb 11 there is no mention of failure

Earlier in the epistle we have the failure of Israel and the possibility of our own unbelief (Heb 3:6 – 4:9).

Both the "old generation" that came out of Egypt and the "new generation" that goes into Canaan responds to their situation and to God in faith/obedience.

God gives grace to His people of faith.

Eph 2:4-6 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

Eph 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace