**“BY FAITH…”**

 **Hebrews 11:29-40**

***Sermon Review***

*What was the Main Point of the Sermon from Sunday?*

*Can you relate to Rahab’s “Imperfect Faith?”*

*What part of the sermon did you find most beneficial?*

***SMALL GROUP LESSON***

1. Why do you think God sometimes leaves us in the dark about His will?
2. What are some examples from your life of both trusting God and doubting Him?

**Hebrews 11:29-40 (NLT2)**
29  It was by faith that the people of Israel went right through the Red Sea as though they were on dry ground. But when the Egyptians tried to follow, they were all drowned. 30  It was by faith that the people of Israel marched around Jericho for seven days, and the walls came crashing down. 31  It was by faith that Rahab the prostitute was not destroyed with the people in her city who refused to obey God. For she had given a friendly welcome to the spies. 32  How much more do I need to say? It would take too long to recount the stories of the faith of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and all the prophets. 33  By faith these people overthrew kingdoms, ruled with justice, and received what God had promised them. They shut the mouths of lions, 34  quenched the flames of fire, and escaped death by the edge of the sword. Their weakness was turned to strength. They became strong in battle and put whole armies to flight. 35  Women received their loved ones back again from death. But others were tortured, refusing to turn from God in order to be set free. They placed their hope in a better life after the resurrection. 36  Some were jeered at, and their backs were cut open with whips. Others were chained in prisons. 37  Some died by stoning, some were sawed in half, and others were killed with the sword. Some went about wearing skins of sheep and goats, destitute and oppressed and mistreated. 38  They were too good for this world, wandering over deserts and mountains, hiding in caves and holes in the ground.

 39  All these people earned a good reputation because of their faith, yet none of them received all that God had promised.
40  For God had something better in mind for us, so that they would not reach perfection without us.

***EXPLORE***

* + 1. What were some of the victories enjoyed by faithful Old Testament believers? ([11:32-34](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A32-34))
		2. How does this passage disprove the notion that faith always leads to earthly blessing? ([11:35-38](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A35-38))
		3. What happened to a great many Old Testament saints who exercised faith in God? ([11:39](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A39))

***APPLY***

1. Do you actively remind yourself of the promises God has made to you as a member of the new covenant? How does remembering the promises of God affect the way you live? How do they help you fight sin and strive for holiness?
2. Are you feeling at home in this world? Do you long for comfort in the culture in which you live? How can you better prepare for the day when Christ will return and you will be home in every sense of the word? How can you fight against feeling at home in this world?
3. Does the inclusion of Rahab the prostitute in this list surprise you? What does this tell us about God’s character toward sinners who put their faith in him?

1. How should God’s faithfulness affect how we understand our circumstances? How do those who suffered for their faith encourage you to endure?

**HOMEWORK:**

*These OT Saints did things that demonstrated their faith. Their actions revealed the worth that they put on God and His Word. Does your life reveal the same? List ways that you can actively demonstrate the worth you put on God and His Word.*

**Additional Thoughts:**

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