

Discussion Guide: Hall of Fame of Faith - Part 12

*Let us examine the Scriptures like the Bereans who "received the message with the great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true."
Acts 17:11 (NIV)*

September 21, 2003: "Hall of Fame of Faith – Part 12" by Kimber Kauffman, Senior Pastor of College Park Church. Pastor concluded his series on the "Hall of Fame of Faith" from Hebrews chapter 11 with today's sermon on Hebrews 11:32-40.

The message on living by faith included a review of the stories of Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses and Rahab, and concluded with an overview of the lessons from the stories of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and some of the Prophets. Pastor Kimber noted that the examples of faith found in the book of Hebrews cover a range of time that began at Creation, continued through the pre-covenant people, the first covenant people, the beginning of the nation of Israel, the period of the Judges, the beginning of the Kingships and concluded even with some mention of the Prophets.

What is seen in these examples is the power of God working through people of faith over a broad range of time in unusual, unorthodox, and even peculiar ways. God convinces us that throughout history, he approves and uses people who seem to have "fatal flaws" or are even termed "worthless fellows."

This chapter is here to encourage the believers who are honest and conscientious enough to realize that our faults are abundant. But, even though this is true, God still delights to involve us in carrying out His will.

Discussion Guide

As you begin your discussion, pray for the Holy Spirit to God to enlighten your hearts with a clear understanding of the text as you read Hebrews 11:32-40 aloud together.

1. As those mentioned in Hebrews 11 had flaws in their character, God inspired the writer of Hebrews to write down what they accomplished, by faith, in spite of their failures. What flaws do you see in your life that may be keeping you from fulfilling God's will?
2. Now that you have heard from each other individually, discuss as a group: How can God use these weaknesses to show himself strong and demonstrate his power?
3. At the conclusion of the message, pastor explained the dangerous human tendency of looking down on others and "writing them off for the least of things". Is there anyone in your life that you look down on, or have "written off" because of something that happened in the past? Share if you feel led.
4. How can we help you grow in Christ-like faith by opening your heart back up to this person or person(s)?
5. Have you been "written off" by someone? How do you handle that in faith based on the examples in Hebrews 11, and the illustration of Ben-Hur used by the pastor?

Background Information

Scripture References (besides Hebrews 11):

Gideon: Judges 6:11 to 8:35

Barak: Judges 4:6 to 5:15 and 1 Samuel 12:11

Samson: Judges 13:24 to 16:30

Jephthah: Judges 11:1 to 12:7 and 1 Samuel 12:11

David: Ruth 4:17 & 22, 1 Samuel 16:13 to 30:31, 2 Samuel 1:1 to 24:25, 1 Kings 1:1 to 22:50, 2 Kings 8:19 to 22:2, 1 Chronicles 2:15 to 29:26, 2 Chronicles 1:1 to 35:15, and passages in Ezra, Nehemiah, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, Amos, Zechariah, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Romans, 2 Timothy, and Revelation.

Samuel: 1 Samuel 1:20 to 28:16, 1 Chronicles 6:27 to 1 Chronicles 29:29, 2 Chronicles 35:18, Psalms 99:6, Jeremiah 15:1, Acts 3:24 and 13:20.

What did they have in common? Despite their flaws God used them to accomplish his purposes.

Ben-Hur Story

No matter how many times we see it, we're still a little breathless after watching the chariot race in Ben-Hur. As you may know, that was one of the most difficult scenes to shoot in movie history. The story is told that Charlton Heston had trouble learning how to drive the chariot. So, after a great deal of work and patience, Heston mastered the art of driving the chariot, but felt impelled to go to the director, Cecil B. DeMille, and say, "I think I can drive the chariot, but I'm not sure I can win the race." DeMille is said to have responded, "You just stay in the race...I'll make sure you win."

When there are times it seems that things about us are about to collapse and you're not sure you can get on top of them, there is a faithful, unflinching, consistent God who says, "You just stay in the race, I'll make sure you win."

(Source: [Leadership Insights](#) by Dr. John D Hull, President of Equip Ministries, Atlanta GA.)