

FAITH—MY RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST

HEBREWS 11:32-40

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: “Because he (Jesus) is merciful he (God) offers us faith. How tragic if we turn faith into a deed and try to develop it on our own! We can never come to God through our own faith any more than his Old Testament people could come through their own sacrifices. Instead, we must accept his gracious offer with thanksgiving and allow him to plant the seed of faith within us.” Chart “What Is Faith?” in Romans, Chapter 1.

HAS BATTLES. As these heroes of faith rested in faith, God did not take away battles but gave them victories in them. If I, by faith, let my battles be God’s battles, I, too, will experience God’s rest of faith. (**Hebrews 11:32-34, fn 11:32-35, Psalm 20:6-8, fn 20:6-8, II Chronicles 32:8, fn 32:8, fn 32:7, 8, Hebrews 4:6-11, fn 4:6, 7, fn 4:11**) *What battle are you facing that you need to give to the Lord and how could your group help you?*

IS NO GUARANTEE OF COMFORT. “Faith in God carries with it no guarantee of comfort in this world...But it does carry with it great ‘recompense of reward’ in the only world that ultimately matters.” F. F. Bruce, The Epistle to the Hebrews, 342. (**Hebrews 11:35-38, fn 11:32-40, fn 11:35-39, Hebrews 10:32-36, fn 10:32-36, Philippians 4:10-13, fn 4:13, Ephesians 6:10-13, fn 6:12, John 10:27-29, fn 10:28, 29**) *What should you, a believer, keep in mind when suffering?*

IS FUTURISTIC. “Faith celebrates now the reality of the future blessings that are secured by the promise of God. It recognizes that it is the future, and not the past, that molds the present.” William L. Lane, Word Biblical Commentary: Hebrews 9-13, p. 394. The Old Testament believers were looking for the fulfillment of the promised Messiah. Now, with the Holy Spirit living in me, I can “taste” what it will be like when I see Jesus face to face; and that, for the believer, will be glorious. It is that expectation that should mold our faith. (**Hebrews 11:39, 40, fn 11:39, 40, fn 11:40, Ephesians 1:13, 14, fn 1:13, 14, II Corinthians 5:1-10, fn 5:6-8, Philippians 3:20-4:1, fn 3:20, fn 3:21, fn 4:1, I John 2:28-3:3, fn 3:2, 3**) *How does a time in the Word and praying in the Spirit (Ephesians 6:18) help mold your faith?*

Are you taking time to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit with the Living Word teaching you and giving you His joy, His love, and His peace?

