

DAY 34 SATURDAY

HEBREWS 11:17-31 WHAT WILL YOU DO?

¹⁷ *By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, ¹⁸ even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." ¹⁹ Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death.*

²⁰ *By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future.*

²¹ *By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph's sons, and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff.*

²² *By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions about his bones.*

²³ *By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.*

²⁴ *By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.*

²⁵ *He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. ²⁶ He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. ²⁷ By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. ²⁸ By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.*

²⁹ *By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.*

³⁰ *By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days.*

³¹ *By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.*

In this great litany of faith, the author uses the pattern, *By faith (name) (verb)*. The faith of each of these greats in the chronicles of God's people is described in terms of something they did without being able to see the outcome. One might say that their faith was blind, in that they could not see the result, but on the other hand it was not uninformed since they were depending upon the promises of God. Their faith was expressed in an act, but at its root their faith was in God and they were acting according to his promises.

The witness of these greats of the faith demonstrates the practical aspect of our faith in daily life. While faith as an intellectual assent can be separated from our tangible action during the day, a true faith must be manifested in how we live our lives. It must be the basis for our decisions. It must be the basis of our relationships. It must be the basis of both our attitudes and actions.

Today's challenge is to make an intentional effort to express your faith in God in some tangible form. What will you do this day that is based on God's promises?

Lord God, make me cognizant of your promises and the power they have to direct my life. As I focus on those promises, help me to make my decisions based on them and not what is immediately expedient or easy. Grow my faith so that all my actions are informed by your will. Amen.