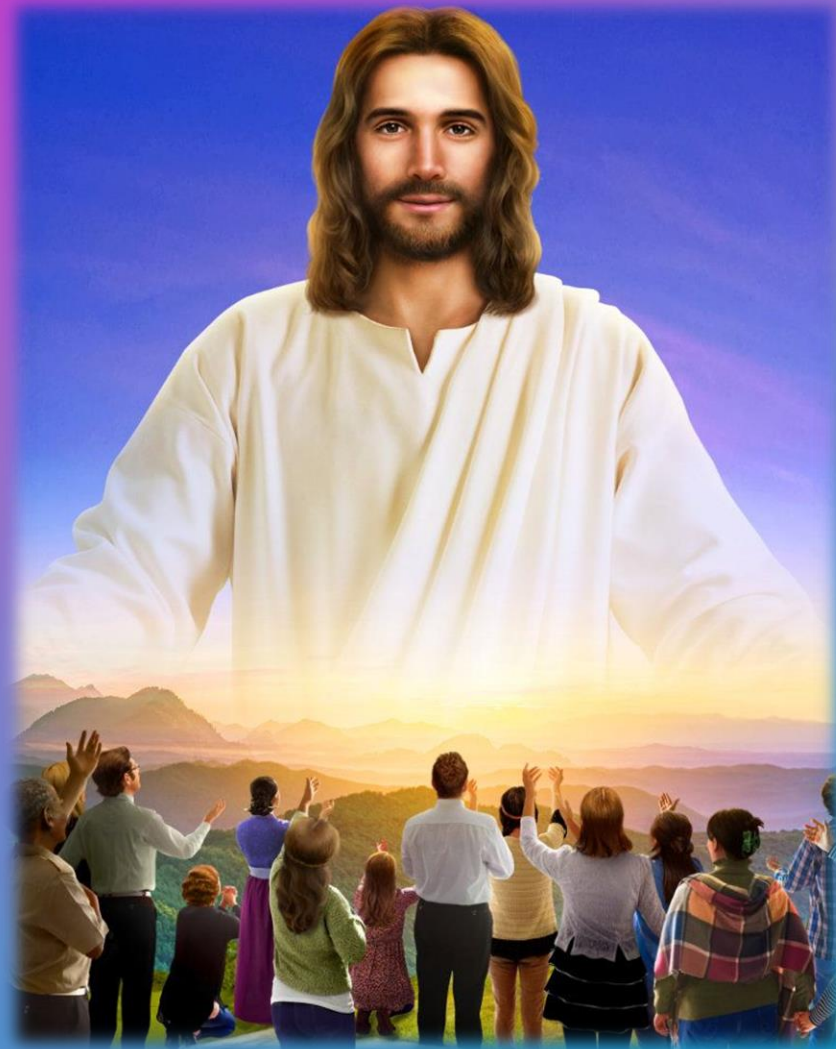


+
○

JESUS, AUTHOR AND PERFECTER OF OUR FAITH

Lesson 11 for March 12, 2022



By the end of his speech, Paul introduced a theme that's a pillar for believers: faith. His definition of faith is: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1)

Faith is a requirement to "please God" (Heb. 11:6). It supported the great heroes of faith, men and women "of whom the world was not worthy." (Heb. 11:38)

There's a place for you in this hall of heroes.



- »»» Living by faith
- »»» The faith of Abraham and Sarah
- »»» The faith of Moses
- »»» The faith of Rahab
- »»» The author and perfecter of faith



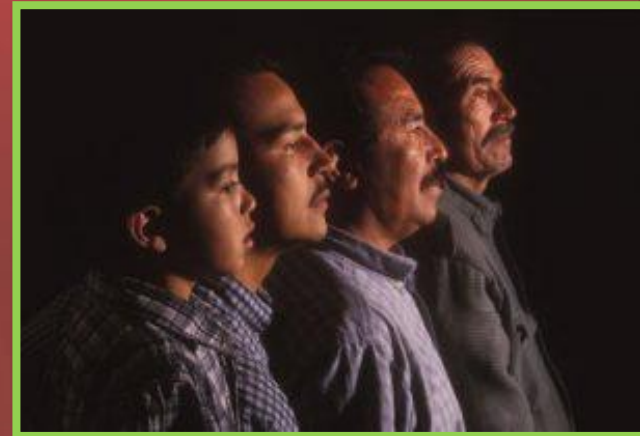
LIVING BY FAITH

“For yet a little while, and He who is coming will come and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith; but if anyone draws back, my soul has no pleasure in him.” (Hebrews 10:37-38)

Jesus—“He who is coming”—will surely come back (Acts 1:11). He has promised it and will do it. Do you believe it?

If you do, God encourages you to cling to your faith. If your faith ever falters, review this list of men and women who looked to the reward (Heb. 11:26). They were faithful people who now rest, waiting to receive the promise with us.

God made a promise, and He is faithful. Our faith comes of His faithfulness. This is not about isolated acts of faith, but about a life of faith: “Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.” (Revelation 2:10)



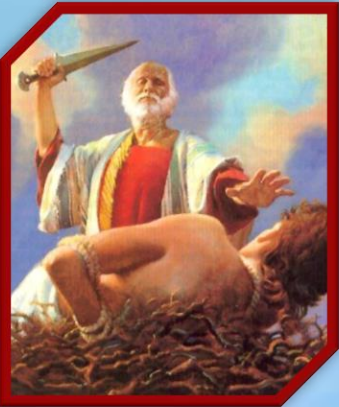
THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM AND SARAH

"By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son," (Hebrews 11:17)



Sarah could not bear a child; the evidence was sound. However, she fought logic and believed because she trusted the One who had made the promise. God never lies.

An elderly woman bore a child from a man "as good as dead" (Heb. 11:12). Then God asked Abraham to sacrifice the child He had given them. Abraham had to stand on his faith, a faith based on the promises God had already fulfilled.



Abraham thought: "After all, wasn't this child born almost dead? Isn't it easy for God to raise a dead child back to life?" (Heb. 11:17-19)

Believing in God is to believe in the impossible. Thanks to Him, the impossible happens.



THE FAITH OF MOSES

"By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible." (Hebrews 11:27)

The life of Moses was full of acts of faith since his birth:



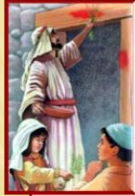
His parents hid him, despite the king's decree (v. 23)



He rejected the throne of Egypt (v. 24-26)



He left Egypt clinging to the Invisible (v. 27)



He celebrated the Passover, avoiding the death of the firstborns (v. 28)



He crossed the dried up Red Sea (v. 29)



He lived for 40 years surrounded by constant miracles of faith

We can learn the following from his experience:

- Our sight must be fixed on Jesus, without losing sight of the reward
- We may have to bear scorn because of our faith in Jesus
- We must not cling to material possessions
- We can expect miracles in our lives



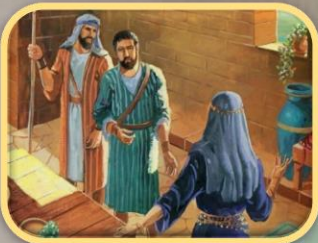
THE FAITH OF RAHAB

"By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace." (Hebrews 11:31)

Joshua was a devout man who faithfully served God all his life. On the contrary, Rahab didn't have any notable virtue. However, Paul mentioned her when recalling Jericho's conquest, and not Joshua. Why?

Because Rahab is an example of faith to all those who believe without seeing. She heard, believed, and obeyed. He chose God without hesitation.

We could say the same of all the heroes that Paul didn't have the time to mention. Many of them decided to follow God no matter the consequences, "not accepting deliverance." (Heb. 11:35)



THE AUTHOR AND PERFECTER OF FAITH

"looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith," (Hebrews 12:2)



How can we keep our faith strong? By clinging to Jesus. Paul mentioned two of His qualities related to our race of faith.

The author of our faith

He is the only One who has reached the end of the race

His perfect life allows us to join the race of faith

He is the *raison d'être* of our faith. He gives it to us (Phlp. 2:13)

The perfecter of our faith

He gave up everything for us

He never sinned

His sight was fixed on the joy ahead

He bore incomprehension and abuse

By our faith in Him, we follow His example, fix our eyes on Him, faithfully move forward, and trust His promises.



“Aim to be faithful students in the school of Christ, learning daily to conform your life to the divine Pattern. Set your faces heavenward, and press toward the mark for the prize of your high calling in Christ Jesus. Run the Christian race with patience [...] Draw nigh to God; and if you are desirous of taking the first upward step, you will find his hand stretched out to help you.”

E. G. W. (The Youth's Instructor, May 30, 1895)