

That's Not What I Expected

Conclusion to the series, "Great Faith: When God Speaks"

Saturday, February 23, 2019 • Pastor Kalae George

Hebrews 11:32-12:2 NLT

The same faith produced two outcomes:

1. Great success.

"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. ³³By faith these people overthrew kingdoms, ruled with justice, and received what God had promised them. They shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched 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. ³⁵Women received their loved ones back again from death..." (Hebrews 11:32-35 NLT)

- A faith that **RESCUES FROM** trouble.

2. Great suffering.

"...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. ³⁶Some were jeered at, and their backs were cut open with whips. Others were chained in prisons. ³⁷Some 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. ³⁸They were too good for this world, wandering over deserts and mountains, hiding in caves and holes in the ground." (Hebrews 11:35-38 NLT)

- A faith that **REFINES THROUGH** trouble.

Our response:

Trust that God is in control.

"All these people earned a good reputation because of their faith, yet none of them received all that God had promised." (Hebrews 11:39 NLT)

Believe that God has something better.

"For God had something better in mind for us, so that they would not reach perfection without us." (Hebrews 11:40 NLT)

Stay focused on Jesus.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith..." (Hebrews 12:1-2 NLT)

- God's greatest promise to us is **HIMSELF**.