

Jesus: God's Final Word

Hard Faith

Hebrews 11:32-40 (ESV)

Faith is ...

Noticia

Assensus

Fiducia

Some (much-needed) clarity on "faith":

Sometimes God responds to our faith by acts of _____ or even accomplishing the _____.

Sometimes God responds to our faith by _____ us in the face of great _____.

But God is _____ and eternally _____ either way. True faith must "see" that.

Sometimes our faith _____ us.

We need the sort of faith that causes us to _____ when we're _____, _____ when we feel _____, and _____ of _____ in the face of _____.

Gideon

Barak

Samson

Jephthah

David

Samuel

The women

But the good news is that we – nor our faith – need be _____ to be _____.

Gideon

Barak

Samson

Jephthah

David

Samuel

The **essence** of **empowering faith** is this certitude: **God is _____!**

Sometimes our faith _____ us.

We need the sort of faith that enables us to handle hardship, oppression, persecution, torture, and even _____ for the sake of Christ.

Their hardships were *not* because of a _____ of faith:

"... *through faith* ..."

"... *the world was not worthy* ..."

"... *commended through their faith* ..."

And though their faith in God ultimately _____ them everything, it was their faith in God that enabled them to know and trust that _____.

Our position is not that suffering is _____. It is that God – and all He has for us is _____!

That's the **essence** of **persevering faith**.

"For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal."

- Apostle Paul (2 Cor. 4:17-18)

"God himself is better than what life can give to you now, and better than what death can take from you later."

- John Piper

"Faith is when the human heart says, 'Although I've been offered everything I could possibly dream of, Jesus is better.' Faith is when the human heart says, 'Although I've lost everything I dreamed of, Jesus is better.'"

- Sam Storms

How my faith develops: