



Heart-to-Heart

This Thing Called Faith

Week 1 | February 07, 2019

Faith: an enduring trust in God and His promises.
[Hebrews 11:30 AMP]

Question: What will you remember most about Christmas 2018?

Hebrews 11:30-40 (AMP)

³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days [by Joshua and the sons of Israel]. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute was not destroyed along with those who were disobedient, because she had welcomed the spies [sent by the sons of Israel] in peace.

³² And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who by faith [that is, with an enduring trust in God and His promises] subdued kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promised blessings, closed the mouths of lions, ³⁴ extinguished the power of [raging] fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became mighty *and* unbeatable in battle, putting enemy forces to flight. ³⁵ Women received back their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured [to death], refusing to accept release [offered on the condition of denying their faith], so that they would be resurrected to a better life; ³⁶ and others experienced the trial of mocking and scourging [amid torture], and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned [to death], they were sawn in two, they were lured with tempting offers [to renounce their faith], they were put to death by the sword; they went about wrapped in the skins of sheep and goats, utterly destitute, oppressed, cruelly treated ³⁸ (people of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and [living in] caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹ And all of these, though they gained [divine] approval through their faith, did not receive [the fulfillment of] what was promised, ⁴⁰ because God had us in mind *and* had something better for us, so that they [these men and women of authentic faith] would not be made perfect [that is, completed in Him] apart from us.

"... God had us in mind and had something better for us ..." Hebrews 11:40a

The better is our faith under the

- God is _____ to our faith.

2 Corinthians 5:7

- The enemy is _____ by our faith.

1 Peter 5:8-10

"The most often repeated command in Scripture is, 'Do not fear.' It's obviously not by accident but a very specific thing that God addressed because he knew what our greatest weakness would be." - Bill Johnson

We simply cannot walk in _____ and

_____ at the

same time for one will silence the other.

Which voice has your attention?

- Jude 1:21

- 2 Corinthians 1:20

- 1 John 4:18

When we become so convinced that God is good, and loves us with a perfect love, and when

we keep His promises in front of us then _____ can't find a place to lodge in

our heart.

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"There will be times when you feel like your faith is dying (or already dead), but if you hang on to whatever you have left of the faith that once burned in your heart *and seek out God's presence*, (and I would add His promises) the phoenix will eventually rise out of the ashes of your dashed hopes, your discouraged heart, your isolation and numbness." - Carol Kent, *Unquenchable*

Further Study:

1. Read the background story of Jericho and Rahab that Sherilyn will teach on during the next two weeks: Hebrews 11:30-31; Joshua chapters 1-6
2. Read *Unquenchable*, Chapter 1
Spend time answering and reflecting on the author's end-of-the-chapter food for thought: *Come to The Fire* pp. 38-39
3. Reflect on whether or not your lack of gut-wrenching honesty with God could be preventing your own personal revival.
Personal revival is a reviving of your spiritual self and senses. Theologian, JI Packer said it this way, "Revival is God's quickening visitation of his people, touching their hearts and deepening his work of grace in their lives."
4. Consider writing a letter to God about the thing that most concerns your heart. Start your letter by completing the sentence, "Lord I feel ..."
5. Remind yourself that you too are a Champion of Faith like those mentioned in Hebrews 11. What could be written or said about your faith if your story were included in Hebrews 11?