



INVESTIGATE

V39 says, “*These were all commended for their faith yet none of them received what was promised.*” In other words they were all still living by faith when they died. (That’s a great goal in itself!)

- What were they believing (11:1; 11:40)?

See how this “*being sure of what we hope for*” theme runs through the chapter:

- 10:34 (first readers) _____
- 11:16 (Abraham) _____
- 11:26 (Moses) _____
- 11:40 (all in chapter 11) _____



THINK IT THROUGH

What happens when we lose sight of the eternal reward that God promises us?

Why is his chapter, full of heroes of faith, here (12:1)?

Who is our ultimate inspiration (12:2)? What enabled Him to endure (12:2-3)?

Getting practical... All of the following will help us persevere in living by faith:

- Reading biographies of believers from the past (a gift for Christmas?)
- Reading stories of believers suffering for their faith today (Open Doors, Barnabus Fund).
- Reading accounts of Old Testament believers.
- Fixing our eyes on Jesus.

Let’s do what Hebrews urges us to do!



PRAY IT THROUGH

Read Hebrews 10:35-39 and respond in prayer.

LIVING BY FAITH

SMALL GROUPS SHEET

WEEK BEGINNING 24 NOVEMBER 2013

3. OTHERS – Clearing up the confusion

Hebrews 11:32-12:3

Oakhall
CHURCH WELCOMES YOU



FOR STARTERS

Remind yourself...

- What true biblical FAITH is (Heb 11:1).
- Why it is so important (Heb 11:2, 6).



BACKGROUND

The author of this letter wants his readers to know what faith looks like in practice day to day. We've considered key moments in the lives of Noah, Abraham and Moses when they demonstrated courageous faith.

By verse 32 the writer seems to be running out of time... so he lists lots of other heroes of faith without giving too many details. What he does do is help us deal with some of the confusion that can come when we think about faith.

Read: Hebrews 11:32-35a



INVESTIGATE BY FAITH SOME...

What do all the people of faith in v32-35a have in common?

In v33-35 he mentions no names, but who do the descriptions remind you of?

Briefly summarise how some of these individuals demonstrated faith... and what God did in response.



THINK IT THROUGH

This chapter is here to inspire the first readers, and us, to be people of faith.

- How do the examples in v32-35a inspire and challenge you?
- Do you "expect great things from God and attempt great things for God"? (W. Carey)

Read: Hebrews 11:35b-40



INVESTIGATE BY FAITH OTHERS...

What do the people in v35b-38 have in common?

Identify the different levels of suffering experienced.

Verse 39 says, "*These were all commended for their FAITH...*"

- How does this help answer the prosperity gospel?
- How does this help us when we suffer?
- How does this help us have the right expectations for the Christian life?

Verse 39 says, "*These were all COMMENDED for their faith...*"

- How does this help us when we suffer as Christians?



THINK IT THROUGH

Read Acts 12:1-11

- How does this account of James and Peter make a similar point to Heb 11:32-38?

Read Philippians 4:13

- This is the voice of faith! Which group in Heb 11:32-38 does this sound more like?
- And yet, what does Phil 4:12 tell us about the life of faith?

Note: Sometimes faith means we experience miraculous deliverance and provision, and sometimes faith means being enabled to keep going when there is no deliverance. Having true faith in God is no guarantee of comfort and security in this life.