

# What Does Faith Do?

[Hebrews 11:29-40]

- Faith is not a sense, nor sight, nor reason, but taking God at His word – Evans
  - Where there is no revelation, there is no faith
    - “God said it; that settles it”

# I. Passed Through Red Sea, 29

## 'Pass through' (Ex.13-14)

- Lk.16:26, of something impossible
- Act of God, Ex.14:14, 21
  - Yes, but Hb.11 emphasizes faith. Ro.10:17
  - Why did Egyptian soldiers drown?

### Egypt

1. Act of God?
2. Subsiding East wind?
3. Hb.11<sup>29</sup> Unbelief

What was faith  
in Israel  
was presumption  
in Egyptians

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- Egyptian soldiers may have been as brave as Israel, but their crossing was not by faith
- “By a daring not unlike this, many rush into eternity. When two do the same thing, it is not the same thing” – Bengel

## Red Sea (Ex.13-14)

Abraham:

Go out!

Did not  
know where

Israel:

Go forward!

Did not  
know how

- God brought them out of Egypt; He would bring them into Canaan, Ex.13:3
- Israel was between rock and hard place, Ex.14:2-3

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II. Walls of Jericho Fell, 30

## Nothing could seem more foolish

- Grown men march around city walls for seven days, led by priests blowing rams' horns . . .
- Faith overcame ridicule
- Josh.6:2... *I have given...*; 20

The fall was not natural  
(earthquake, fault line...)

Not due to Israel's weapons  
(catapults; rams; artillery...)

Not cause and effect  
(rooster crowing; drum...)



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Abraham: knife,  
Gn.22

Snake: Nu.21

Naaman: 2 K.5

Blind man: Jn.9

Jesus' death...

What is too  
difficult for LORD?

## Walls fell after seven day march

- Nothing happened after six days
- Siege could last for years

‘He who dwells in heaven must assuredly laugh at those who defiantly trust to walls and ramparts’ – Starke

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**III. Rahab Did Not Perish With  
The Disobedient, 31**

Rahab is unlike the others in three ways:

<sup>1</sup>harlot; <sup>2</sup>Canaanite (Gentile) AND <sup>3</sup>believer

- Josh.2:9-11 (confession)
  - She became much more – Mt.1:5
  - Gospel is universal. Mt.21:31-32
- She had witnessed no miracles yet...
  - Jn.20, Thomas
  - Hb.11:1, 'Now faith is the substance [assurance] of things hoped for, the evidence [conviction] of things not seen'

The disobedient perished; Josh.5:1 (2:10-11)  
(Hb.3:18)

Received spies in peace; did not earn her  
salvation, but showed active faith –

Ja.2:25, 'Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot  
also justified by works when she received the  
messengers and sent them out another way?'

- Passover, Ex.12:13 – When I see the blood
- Rahab – when they see scarlet cord...  
(Josh.2:18)

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III. Rahab Did Not Perish... 31

**IV. Other Examples of Faith, 32**

## Gideon

- Jg.6, in minority. His weakness gave him strength
- Weakness forced reliance upon God...  
2 Co.12:9-10

## Barak

- Jg.4-5, helped by two women
  - Deborah at beginning
  - Jael at end

## Samson, Jg.13

- Hurt by two women: <sup>1</sup>bride; <sup>2</sup>Delilah
- Strong, fearless hero . . . (Jg.16:29-31)

## Jephthah

- Jg.11, gained victory after rejection; trusted God



## David, 2 Sm.7:12

- Not expecting promise from God; planning a promise for God.
- Ac.13:22, 'A man after My heart, who will do all My will.'

## Samuel

- 1 Sm.7:...12, Eben-ezer

## Prophets

- Stood in God's minority, not earth's majority

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IV. Other Examples of Faith, 32

**V. Deeds of Faith, 33-38**

- A. Subdued (conquered) kingdoms (Joshua)
- B. Worked righteousness [justice: judges / kings?]
- C. Obtained promises. Josh.21:45
- D. Stopped mouths of lions
  - 1. Samson, Jg.14:6
  - 2. David, 1 Sm.17
  - 3. Daniel, Dn.6
- E. Quenched power of fire, 34. Dn.3:16-18
- F. Escaped edge of sword, 34. 1 K.19; 2 K.6
- G. Out of weakness were made strong. Jg.16
- H. Valiant in battle. Barak; Joshua; David

- I. Turned foreign armies to flight. Jg.7
- J. Women received dead... Hb.11:35
  - 1. Zarephath, 1 K.17
  - 2. Shunamite, 2 K.4
- K. Tortured, not accepting deliverance. 2 Macc.
- L. Trial of mockings, scourgings... Hb.11:36
- M. Stoned, 37. 2 Chr.24:19-21, Zechariah...
- N. Sawn in two, 37.
- O. Slain with sword. 1 K.19:10...
- P. Wandered in sheepskins, goatskins...
- Q. Wandered in deserts, mountains, dens... 38

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**VI. Conclusion, 39-40**

All these obtained good testimony  
through faith (Hb.11:2, 4-5)

- **Did not obtain fulfillment of the promise, 39**  
(ct. 33, obtained promises)
- **Something better for us [ultimate blessing]**  
**40** ('us' = Christians). Hb.10:36
  - We receive blessings they suffered to bring
  - Mt.13:16-17
  - 1 Pt.1:10-11, OT saints triumphed through faith in promises they did not see fulfilled
  - 1 Pt.1:12, endured with only a promise...

## Each example of faith was imperfect

- Only Christ perfectly illustrates the whole (12:1-2)
- Abel, 12:24: no one ever walked with God as Jesus did
- “Faith is the link that binds our nothingness to almightiness”

# God's plan of salvation was put into operation by the salvation of His Son

- Faith overcomes the world
- Many faithful saints did not live long enough to see the fulfillment of their desires, but their salvation did not fail