

## “THE FINALITY OF FAITH”

Hebrews 11:30-40

Message 1622

Many people think there are a variety of ways to find strength and peace, a number of ways to find God. They say, “It all depends on how you have been taught.” There is some truth to that statement. But it makes a big difference, a difference so vast that you may never find peace, if you follow what you think is the right way. You will miss that inner peace you deeply long for unless you follow the true way. When all possibilities have been tried, there is only one way that really works. It is faith in the true God.

In Hebrews 11:30-40 **THE FINALITY OF FAITH** is pictured in the scenes of history where men of faith triumphed. Faith is the only way to find what you really want.

*30. By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days.*

*31. By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.*

*32. And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gideon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:*

*33. Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,*

*34. Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.*

*35. Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:*

*36. And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:*

*37. They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;*

*38. (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.*

*39. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise.*

*40. God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.*

From this listing of great exploits by the people of faith we can see those **AREAS** where faith is final.

**IN THE AREA OF CONQUEST** faith is final. In the conquest of Jericho, under the leadership of Joshua, the Lord instructed Joshua to march all the people around the city of Jericho once a day for six days. On the seventh day they were to march around seven times and then blow the trumpets. They followed God’s command, and they captured the city without firing a shot. The walls of Jericho fell down because faith led them to obey God’s instructions. Faith is final in the area of conquest.

Rahab, the harlot, who received the spies when they came into the city, did not perish with the rest of the people because she trusted God. To her, faith was final, for God delivered her and her family because she believed.

So, whether the conflict is on the outside or on the inside, faith is final in that conquest. We must understand there is no other way to succeed in life's conquest but by faith.

**IN THE AREA OF COURAGE** faith is final. Here is a list of men of courage taken from Israel's history. Gideon who put to flight the armies of the Midianites with only 300 men. But he had the word from God. He had faith in God. Faith for him was final.

There was Samson, the strongest, a man of great strength. His faith in God enabled him to do great exploits for God.

There was David. When still only a young man, with a sling and a stone and faith in the God of Israel, he put to flight the armies of the Philistines by killing their giant, Goliath. Here are men of great courage.

Then follows a list of great exploits. Men of faith "subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again; others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheep skins and goat skins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented." What great exploits for God! Only faith in the true God could instill such courage in the face of such great suffering.

We must believe this fact. There is no other way to obtain such courage but by faith in the true God. Faith is final in the area of courage.

**IN THE AREA OF CONSUMMATION** faith is final. This entire listing of people in Hebrews chapter 11, were satisfied with faith. Faith to them was final. The promise was only secure because God is faithful. His promise can be trusted and they trusted His promise. They received a witness through faith. But they received not the promise. The fulfillment of the promise was not given to them. The promise was given, but the fulfillment was held for a later time so that we might be perfected together with them.

Here is included the complete purpose of God. That purpose of God included them and us, you and me with them. The fact that they did not receive the promise was to our advantage. It is faith in the true God which enabled them to look to the consummation, or fulfillment of the promise. It is faith in the true God that will enable us to look to that consummation of the promise. It is clear from this text, that perfection will come.

We must recognize there is no other way to have a part in the consummation of God's purpose except by faith. I want you to be sure to understand that. Let me repeat it: there is no other way to have part in the consummation of God's purpose except by faith. Faith is **FINAL**. There is only one final way, the way of faith.

Faith is final in these areas of life: the area of conquest, the area of courage, the area of consummation. Make your commitment of faith in the true God NOW!