

# **"By Faith"**

## **Hebrews 11:1-40**

### **Part 1**

- I. BY IT [FAITH] THE ELDERS – VS. 2, 39 – "OBTAINED A GOOD REPORT"**
- II. THROUGH FAITH WE – VS. 3 – WE UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH**
- III. BY FAITH ABEL – VS. 4; GEN. 4:1-7 – HIS FAITH SPOKE EVEN AFTER DEATH**
- IV. BY FAITH ENOCH – VS. 5-6; GEN. 5:21-24 – "PLEASED GOD"**
- V. BY FAITH NOAH – VS. 7; GEN. 6:8-22 – LIVED A LIFE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**

### **Part 2**

- VI. BY FAITH ABRAHAM – VS. 8-10, 17-19 – OBEYED**
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### **Part 3**

- VIII. PARENTHETICAL – VS. 12-16 – "STRANGERS AND PILGRIMS"**

### **Part 4**

- IX. BY FAITH ISAAC – VS. 20 - FAITH THAT SUBMITS TO**

## GOD'S SOVEREIGN PLAN.

### X. BY FAITH JACOB – VS. 21 - FAITH THAT WORSHIPS

### XI. BY FAITH JOSEPH – VS. 22 - FAITH THAT SPEAKS OF DELIVERANCE

## Part 5

### Faith for the Long Journey – A Faith That Finishes

### XII. BY FAITH MOSES, THE NATION OF ISRAEL, AND RAHAB – VS. 23-31

#### A. Faith that shelters – vs. 23; Ex. 2:2-10

1. Their faith saw the remarkable – “they saw he was a proper child.”
  - a) Moses’ parents, Amram and Jochebed, saw he was “a proper child” (KJV) – not just in appearance, but in spiritual potential.
  - b) This word (ἁστεῖον) can mean “well-formed” or “remarkable.”
  - c) Their insight was more than parental pride – they **recognized God's hand** on their child (cf. Acts 7:20).

Acts 7:20

<sup>20</sup> In which time Moses was born, and was exceeding fair, and nourished up in his father's house three months:

2. Their faith acted in the face of danger.
  - a) They hid Moses for three months, defying the

command by Pharaoh, which ordered the death of all male Hebrew babies.

Exodus 1:22

<sup>22</sup> And Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive.

- b) Their act was **intentional and sustained**, not a moment of panic.
  - c) Faith sometimes acts **quietly but courageously** behind the scenes.
3. Their faith caused them to fear God more than man.
- a) "They were not afraid of the king's commandment" – an astonishing statement considering Pharaoh's power.
  - b) This phrase (οὐκ ἐφοβήθησαν) is emphatic: they **chose not to be ruled by fear**.
  - c) Faith replaces the fear of man with the fear of God (Proverbs 29:25; Matthew 10:28).

Proverbs 29:25

<sup>25</sup> The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

Matthew 10:28

<sup>28</sup> And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

4. Their faith sheltered what we might consider to be the next generation.

- a) Consider that point carefully in light of what's already been said. It takes faith to shelter our children from the dangers around them – it's our responsibility to **shelter the next generation today.**
- b) What they did in faith would later affect **an entire nation.**
- c) Faith in the home matters. It **protects, preserves, and prepares.**

## B. Faith that surrenders – vs. 24-26; Ex. 2:11; Acts 7:21-24

Moses' parents had the faith to **hide him**, but Moses would need faith to **leave everything behind.**

As he grew up under Pharaoh's roof, he faced a choice: the **comforts of Egypt**, or the **calling of God.**

Faith that shelters starts the journey, but **faith that surrenders** must carry it forward – even when it costs everything.

1. In his surrender, he made a definitive choice – vs. 24a – “when he was come to years, refused...”
  - a) “When he was come to years” – literally means Moses had grown up (cf. Exodus 2:11).

### Exodus 2:11

<sup>11</sup> And it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out unto his brethren, and looked on their burdens: and he spied an Egyptian smiting an Hebrew, one of his brethren.

- b) He made a **deliberate, mature decision** – not under pressure, but with full understanding.
- c) The verb “**refused**” (ἠρνήσατο, middle voice) reflects a **firm, personal rejection** of Egyptian identity.

2. In his surrender, he rejected the easier life.

- a) Moses could have remained in wealth, power, and status – “the son of Pharaoh’s daughter.”
- b) Instead, he **refused the fleeting pleasures** of sin (v. 25).
- c) Faith doesn’t seek comfort – it chooses the cross when it leads to Christ.

3. In his surrender, he chose to identify with God’s people – vs. 25.

- a) He chose “to suffer affliction with the people of God” – not just to help them, but to be one of them.

#### **b) Deliberate Choice:**

- (1) The word “choosing” (αἰρετίζομαι) means a **thoughtful, reasoned selection** – used nowhere else in the NT.
- (2) Moses didn’t drift into suffering – he **chose it with clarity and conviction**.

#### **c) Willing Participation:**

- (1) “To suffer affliction” is a word (συγκακουχεῖσθαι) that means to suffer together.

- (2) A compound verb meaning **to share mistreatment**, not merely to sympathize.
- (3) This was an act of **solidarity**, not mere compassion.

#### d) Spiritual Alignment:

- (1) Moses didn't just reject Pharaoh – he **embraced God's covenant people**.
- (2) This shows us that **faith will always identify with those God has chosen**, even if the world has rejected them.

#### e) Application:

- (1) Are we willing to **stand with God's people when they're mocked** rather than praised?
  - (2) Faith aligns us with God's people even when **it brings reproach instead of reward**.
4. In his surrender, he valued eternal reward over the temporary earthly kind (temporal) – vs. 26.
- a) "Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches..." – Moses calculated the **spiritual profit** of reproach for Christ to outweigh Egypt's wealth.
- "Esteeming" (ἡγησάμενος) means **to weigh in the balance and decide**.
- b) He endured hardship because **"he had respect unto the recompence of the reward"** – a focus on eternity.
- (1) "He had respect" (ἀπέβλεπεν)

- (a) This is in the **imperfect tense**, meaning **ongoing action** – Moses kept looking toward something.
- (b) The word means **to turn the eyes away from one thing to fix them on another**.

Moses **intentionally shifted his focus** away from Egypt's treasures and toward God's eternal reward. This wasn't a passing thought – it was his **sustained focus**.

*"Faith doesn't just glance at eternity – it gazes at it."*

(2) "The recompence of the reward"

- (a) This is a compound word (μισθαποδοσία):

- (i) μισθός – "wages, payment"

- (ii) ἀπόδοσις – "giving back, repayment"

- (b) This word refers to **a full, just, God-given reward**.

- (c) It's used earlier in Hebrews 10:35: "Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great **recompence of reward**."

- (d) This is not **salvation by works**:

- (i) This is not earning salvation, but God's faithful reward for obedience (cf. 1 Cor. 3:14).

### 1 Corinthians 3:14

<sup>14</sup> If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

- (ii) Moses wasn't motivated by greed, but by the certainty of God's approval and promised inheritance.

(3) This is faith that fixes its eyes on the future

- (a) Moses weighed the riches of Egypt against **the reward of obedience** – and chose eternal gain.
- (b) He saw beyond the palace walls to the promise of God.
- (c) Faith values **what God will give** over what man can offer.

### Matthew 6:19-21

<sup>19</sup> Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: <sup>20</sup> But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

### Romans 8:18

<sup>18</sup> For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

## C. Faith that stands – vs. 27; Ex. 10:28-29

Surrendering Egypt was one thing – **standing up to it was another.**

Faith didn't just cause Moses to walk away – it gave



him the **strength to stand firm** when the wrath of the king was kindled.

Faith not only **surrenders** – it **stands** in courage, seeing the invisible God as more real than the most visible threats.

1. **Stands in defiance of fear** – “he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king...”

a) “He forsook Egypt” refers not to Moses’ early flight after killing the Egyptian (Exodus 2:14-15), but to his **final departure** during the Exodus.

(1) “Forsook” (κατέλιπεν) – Often used to describe a **deliberate departure or decisive break** (e.g., Matthew 19:5 – “leave father and mother”).

(2) The verb “**he forsook**” (κατέλιπεν) is in the **orist tense**, indicating a decisive, climactic departure – not a panicked escape.

(3) That first flight was marked by fear, but **this departure was marked by faith**.

(4) This view fits the **flow of Hebrews 11**, and it transitions directly into v. 28 with **the Passover**.

b) “Not fearing the wrath of the king” – Moses was **face to face with Pharaoh**, delivering God’s judgments without backing down.

2. **Sees the invisible** – “he endured, as seeing him who is invisible” (this is the heart of the verse) – goes back to **Heb. 11:1**

a) The verb “seeing” (ὁρῶν) is present tense – not a one-time glance, but **ongoing spiritual**

**perception** – “as continually seeing the Invisible One.”

- b) The verb “endured” (κατερέω) means **to remain steadfast with strength and courage.**

### 3. **Endures in obedience**

- a) Moses' endurance wasn't passive – he continued trusting, leading, and obeying despite pressures from Pharaoh, the people, and the wilderness.
- b) He stood because he saw **God, not Pharaoh**, as the one truly in control.

### 4. **Stands today**

- a) We are still called to **stand in faith**, not fold under pressure.
- b) The more clearly we see God – through His Word and His Spirit – the less sway the threats of the world hold over us.

*“You will never stand firm until you see clearly.”*

Conclusion to this point:

**Faith that Shelters** – The faith of Moses' parents protected him from death and aligned him with God's purpose before he could even speak. Their faith created an environment where God's calling could be nurtured.

**Faith that Surrenders** – When Moses grew up, he chose to turn his back on all that Egypt offered. His faith valued eternal reward over earthly riches, and he was willing to suffer because he saw something

greater.

**Faith that Stands** – Moses' faith gave him courage to confront Pharaoh, to endure wrath, and to keep moving forward by seeing the invisible God. He stood firm, not because of who he was, but because of who he saw.

So let me ask you:

- **What are you sheltering in faith?** Maybe a child, a calling, or a conviction the world says isn't worth preserving?
- **What have you surrendered lately?** True faith doesn't cling – it lets go when God says, "Follow Me."
- **Are you standing even when the world pushes back?** The pressures around you are real, but so is the God who sees you and stands with you.

The world needs people like Moses – people who will trust God when it's dangerous, obey Him when it costs, and **see Him when no one else does.**

We need God to raise up people of faith even in our church – people who don't just believe once, but **believe continually.**

Not just faith that starts well... but **faith that finishes.**

#### D. Faith that submits – vs. 28

"He kept the Passover"

#### E. Faith that saves – vs. 29

"By faith they" (Israel)

**F. Faith that surrounds – vs. 30**

“By faith...they were compassed about”

**G. Faith that spares – vs. 31**

“By faith...Rahab perished not”

**XIII. THROUGH FAITH MANY OTHERS – vs. 32-39**