**Hebrews 11:17-40 – Overcoming by faith**

**Main Idea: Faith allows you to face life and overcome it…**

**whatever the outcome**

**1. The fathers: Abraham 11:17-19**

* **God seemed to contradict Himself**
* **Abraham rose above circumstances**
* **His faith was based on what he believed was true about God**
* **Like him, we have to look beyond our lives and realize some things will not be realized until our resurrected lives!**

**2. The fathers: Isaac, Jacob, Esau, and Joseph 11:20-22**

* **All believed God would work beyond their lifetimes and acted in faith**
* **Isaac = trusted God to fulfill promises to his children and blessed them**
* **As did Jacob in blessing the children and Joseph in his instructions**
* **As we age, faith can begin to deaden. Doubts and frustrations can begin to creep in.**
* **We have to continue to believe that God can and does work in the lives of those we love, even after we’re gone! 2 Tim. 1:12-14; 2:2**

**3. The life of Moses and the people 11:23-31**

* **Moses’ parents believed God had something better for him and God rewarded their faith in his life v. 23;**
* **2 Tim. 1:5 - The impact of godly households**
* **Faith is willing to give up things of this world for a better world and a better reward vv. 24-26 For Moses, fame, wealth, and power now didn’t begin to compare with what was in his future!**
* **Moses believed being shamed with Christ a greater value than the treasures of Egypt! Vv. 24-26**
* **And, we may not even want others to know we are Christians!**
* **Like Moses, we should not be afraid of human anger and walk away from our worship experience vv. 27-28**
* **God’s wrath is much more intimidating!**
* **The world will both pull on you and oppose you.**
* **Faith will bring us victory over our enemies, even when our lives have not always been what they should have been vv. 29-31**

**4. A survey of faith 11:32-38**

* **Seriously, what would *you* have said about these guys?**
* **God’s judgment is merciful!**
* **We often learn far more from failure than from success!**
* **Even death can’t defeat faith vv. 33-35a**
* **When we live by faith, even what looks like a defeat is turned into a victory! Vv. 35b-38**
* **A difficult life lived by faith only builds a better future!**

**God’s evaluation is clear: The world simply doesn’t deserve to have the kind of people who live by faith! V. 38**

**5. Summary 11:39-40**

* **God delayed the realization of their hopes so that we could also become partners with the King in His reign!**
* **This “cloud of witnesses” now wait for us to finish the race and to forever join them in the Kingdom**
* **But there is one thing every faithful believer in any age has found…**

**Faith allows you to face life and overcome it…**

**whatever the outcome**

**Faith is the indispensable basis of all effective spiritual living**