

WALK BY FAITH



Facing the Tests of Satisfaction & Trust

Sunday, September 15, 2024

Hebrews 11:23-31

Facing the Test of Satisfaction (Hebrews 11:23-28)

Prior to Moses, we read about Joseph. Joseph was the instrument God used to preserve the people of faith. For approximately 100 years, the children of Israel enjoyed the blessings and the bounty of Egypt (see Genesis 45:18). Pharaoh had been eternally grateful to Joseph for all he had done and therefore he blessed all of Israel.

But when Joseph, his brothers, and that generation died (Exodus 1:6-8), things changed. As long as Joseph lived, the people of Israel prospered in Egypt. They were on a free ride in the land of Goshen. Yet, this may have very well been the root of their problem. God had planned and promised so much more, but they had become content to stay in the land of Egypt indefinitely.

What is “the pursuit of happiness”? Happy is a synonym for the word satisfied. What does it take to satisfy (or make you happy) in life? As we study the life of God’s most faith-filled children, we learn from Moses that genuine satisfaction only can be found when one lives a life of faith. Not only is it impossible to please God without faith (Hebrews 11:6), it is also impossible for God’s children to be pleased in life without exercising their faith. Daily you will be challenged and tempted to find satisfaction only in the things you can see, taste, touch, or smell. Moses is an example of one who triumphed over the test of satisfaction by faith. God’s desire is for you to find your greatest satisfaction in Him. In order for you to follow the example of Moses and find your greatest satisfaction in God, you must...

1. Understand the pattern of the test:

R.T. Kendall has said, “How many of us would never make spiritual progress unless we were driven to our knees by some adverse change in circumstances?”

- Social position (verse 24)
- Sinful pleasures (verse 25)
- Staggering prosperity (verse 26)
- Safety of person (verse 27)

2. Understand the path to victory:

- Confess publicly that you belong to Christ. (verse 24)
- Choose the spiritual over the physical. (verse 25)
- Calculate the value of the eternal over the temporal. (verse 26)
- See with spiritual eyes. (verse 27)
- Remember, the operating principle for faith is obedience. (verse 28)

“The secret to victory is to face God before we face man.”

Facing the Test of Trust (Hebrews 11:29-31)

Someone has said there are four types of faith. There is **faith that receives**, as when we come empty-handed to Christ for salvation. There is **faith that reckons**, that counts on God to undertake for us. There is **faith that risks**, that moves out in God's power, daring to do the impossible. And there is **faith that rests**—the kind that, in the middle of pain and suffering and rejection, sits back in confidence that God will deliver. Trusting God requires that your “faith rests” in the Lord! In Hebrews 11:29-31, we see faith resting in the Lord and we learn...

1. My responsibility:

- Take the first step of obedience.
- Trust (Proverbs 3:5-6)

2. God's dependability:

- Trust Him to be your deliverer
- Trust Him to be your conqueror
- Trust Him to be your redeemer

Take away questions:

- Do you find your greatest satisfaction in your relationship with God?
- What do you need to trust God with today?
- What do you need to remove from your shoulders and put on God's shoulders today?