

# HEROES OF THE FAITH

Sunday, July 9, 2017  
Pastor Doug Phillips

## **Intro to Hebrews 11:13-16**

It is important, when discussing the examples of faith discussed in Hebrews 11, that we not lose sight of the larger picture of what faith is and in whom our faith rests. So much of what plagues Christianity today is rooted in fundamental misunderstandings about who God is and about what it means to respond to Him appropriately. Thankfully, the author of Hebrews not only narrates the events of the lives of the “heroes” of faith portrayed in the Old Testament, but he also gives us a bigger picture of what faith is and of the character of their God.

In this particular passage, the author discusses how faith in the one, true God means trusting that He will fulfill His promises, even if we don’t see it or experience it in this lifetime. There are a lot of supposedly Christian teachers in the world today who try to convince people that they can enjoy all the material blessings of God right here and right now. This is not only a distortion of what the Bible teaches but fails to account for much of what can be plainly observed about human experience. People suffer. Good people suffer. There are trials of various kinds that often provide only momentary breaks in between their arrivals. This is why the Bible exhorts Christians—people of faith—to live in light of the true promises of God, which He will bring to their fulfillment in the age to come.

### **Context**

Hebrews 11:13-16 explains that the promises of God (which were discussed earlier in the chapter and were originally narrated in the Old Testament), were not to be fulfilled during the lifetimes of those who received the promise. Therefore, the recipients of the letter, despite their own persecution (10:34), can continue to look forward to God’s fulfillment of His promises (12:28).

**Read and Reflect** *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

### Five Fundamentals of Genuine Faith in God

1. True Faith believes in the true and living God -- God as he actually is (as He has revealed Himself in His Word).
2. True Faith believes that God is, indeed, the Supreme Being – and should be supremely feared, trusted, loved and obeyed.
3. True Faith believes what the Word of God, centered in the Gospel, teaches about how we come to be right with God (in salvation).
4. True Faith believes that God can only be rightly trusted, loved, obeyed and served in accordance with His infallible, inscripturated Word.
5. True Faith believes what the Word of God teaches about God's sovereign plan and providential purpose for the world, the Church, and the individual believer.

## **Discuss**

- 1) Why is it so easy for us to have a small view of God?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) Of these five fundamentals of faith, which is the greatest challenge for you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) Pastor Doug used the phrase, “treat God as God.” What do you think that means? Are there any passages of Scripture that come to mind that express that same idea?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) Read Isaiah 40:25-41:4. How does God describe Himself in that passage?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 5) How would you describe authentic Christian faith to a person who does not know the Bible?