

# LEARNING HOW TO TRUST GOD

## Part 16 - What Mature Faith Looks Like Hebrews 11:32-40

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Faith is the trusting obedience to the revealed **will** of God.

Hebrews 11:32-40 *“And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, <sup>33</sup> who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup> quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became **powerful** in battle and routed foreign armies. <sup>35</sup> Women received back their dead, raised to life again.”*

*“Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. <sup>36</sup> Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. <sup>37</sup> They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, **destitute**, persecuted and mistreated-- <sup>38</sup> the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. <sup>39</sup> These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. <sup>40</sup> God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.” (NIV)*

Some escaped by faith and some endured by faith but all were viewed the same way by God – people of **mature** faith.

I. MATURE FAITH BELIEVES THAT GOD IS **ABLE**.

II. MATURE FAITH BOWS TO THE SOVEREIGN **PURPOSES** OF GOD.

A. **Zechariah** the prophet was stoned to death.

B. Most likely the person who was cut in two was the prophet **Isaiah**.

C. God has not promised that we would be **devoid** of difficulty. But, He has promised we will know ultimate victory.

*Romans 8:35-37 "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." <sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. (NIV)*

D. Daniel 3:16-18 *"Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. <sup>17</sup> If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and He will rescue us from your hand, O king. <sup>18</sup> But even if He does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up." (NIV)*

- E. These men said, "Our God is able. But if He chooses not to, if ultimately it is better for His purposes that the answer be no, it will be a privilege to die being **faithful** to Him."
- F. The Bible does not make this life, in the here and now, the ultimate meaning and expression of life. The Bible treats the here and now as a **preparation** for life after this one. So, God taking us home is not viewed in heaven as a defeat but a victory.
- G. Psalm 116:15 *"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints."*
- H. Revelation 14:13 *"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, 'Write, **Blessed** are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them!'"*
- I. From the other side, death is not the end, it's the **entrance**. Death is a gateway to a wonderful new life.
- J. Job 13:15 *"Though God slay me, yet will I **trust** Him."*

K. Habakkuk 3:17-18 *“Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, <sup>18</sup> yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior. (NIV)*

### III. MATURE FAITH IS WILLING TO TRUST GOD’S PROMISES TO BE FULFILLED **GOD’S WAY.**

A. Hebrews 11:39-40 *“These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. <sup>40</sup> God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.” (NIV)*

B. God gives us promises and He accomplishes those promises **His way** and in His timing because He sees what we cannot see.

C. Mature faith is willing to let God be God even if it means that God fulfills His promises to us in ways **differently** than we want.

*CDs and DVDs of today’s sermon or previous sermons are available for purchase after the service at our Water’s Edge Resource Center.*

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