

# Faith as Our STRENGTH

PART 2

Hebrews 11:35-12:3

**Big Idea: Faith is the conduit by which  
and provision are poured into our lives.**

**God's power**

**1.) By faith, the dead are delivered (v. 29, 31).**

**2.) By faith, the frail are forceful (v. 30, 32-35a).**

**3.) By faith, the suffering are **SUSTAINED** (v. 35-38).**

**-- Having true faith in God is no guarantee of physical comfort and security in this life.**

-- The suffering sustained in v. 35-38 comes to people whose faith is commended.

-- v. 39 – Having true faith is not the ultimate determining factor in whether you suffer or escape; God's sovereign will is..

-- When believers suffer, there is a higher explanation than whether or not they “have enough faith.” This is a comforting reality.

**-- Instead of sparing us **FROM** suffering, God sometimes chooses to sustain us **THROUGH** it.**

-- *Why does God sometimes choose to sustain us through suffering rather than empower us to overcome it?*

a.) God is showing the world the sufferings of Christ through the **CHURCH** which is Christ's body (Colossians 1:24).

-- As the body of Christ, we are meant by God to make tangible the sufferings of Christ to a hurting world.

-- Even as Christ saved us by His sufferings in the body, so we witness to Him by our sufferings as His body (2 Corinthians 4:8-11).

b.) Through our sufferings, God makes known the incomparable worth of Christ.

- v. 37b-38 – *“...of whom the world was not worthy...”*
- Believers who cherish faith in Christ through suffering are a gracious **GIFT** from God to an undeserving world.
- Those who love God more than life and suffer willingly in assurance of something better are testifying to the immeasurable worth of Christ.
- c.) Faith through suffering is a testimony to the world because it points to the only worthy goal of life-**GOD HIMSELF**
  - Faith delights in all that God will be for us beyond the grave (v. 35).
  - v. 35 – The resurrection that awaits us in Christ is a “better resurrection” than the resurrection experienced by the widow's son.
  - Faith says that God is worth any torture and better than any treasure.

#### 4.) Nothing remotely **COMPARES** to eternal life in Christ (v. 39-40).

- As amazing as the works of faith in Hebrews 11 are, they are not the end goal of faith; they merely point forward to something better in Christ.
- All true faith points to Christ and is awaiting a hope greater than anything life can give us now or anything that death can take from us in the future.
- Tracing all the way back to the faith of Abel, God has ordained that all true faith will be made complete only in Christ.

#### Application – Hebrews 12:1-3

- Since God has given so many great witnesses to the power of faith, step up and walk by faith in every way every day.
- The great challenge of our lives and our church is to cultivate and spread a death-defying faith in Christ.
- There is no one as **STRONG** as the one who walks by faith.