

FAITH WHEN GOD IS SILENT

Hebrews 11:35b-40 p. 975

Context: God often delivered those who trusted him (Heb. 11:23-35a), but not everyone is physically delivered who trusts God (35b-40).

- I. FAITH MEANS TRUSTING GOD IN TIMES OF TRIAL, PERSECUTION AND EVEN DEATH (11:35b-38).
 - A. Believers were often persecuted for godliness (35b-38).
 - Torture (Jeremiah 20:2; 36:1-2; 38:6).
 - Mockery (2 Chron. 36:16; Lam. 3:14; 2 Kings 2:23-24).
 - Prison (Joseph Genesis 39:20; Micaiah 1 Kings 22:27).
 - Stoned (Zechariah, by King Joash 2 Chronicles 24:1-22).
 - Sawn in two (Isaiah – “Ascension of Isaiah”).
 - Executed/sword (Prophets 1 Kings 19:10; Urijah Jer. 26:23).
 - Fleeing persecution (Obadiah 1 Kings 18:4).
 - B. God honors those who endure: The world is not worthy of those who trust God through persecution and death (38a).

- II. FAITH MEANS VALUING GOD’S APPROVAL MORE THAN GOD’S ANSWERS TO PRAYER (11:39).
 - Principle: God commends our faith when we trust Him even when our prayers are not answered.
 - Old Testament believers were commended for faith without knowing Jesus, the promised Messiah.

- III. FAITH MEANS KNOWING JESUS CAME TO SAVE THOSE BEFORE AND AFTER THE CROSS (11:40).
 - *Better* – Believers today know Jesus, who is the completion of God's promise to Old Testament believers (40a).
 - *Perfect* – The cross saved those before and after Jesus since He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of all the world (40b; John 1:29; Hebrews 12:23).