

The Book of Hebrews

Living "By Faith"

"For <u>MY</u> power is made perfect in weakness." 2 Cor 12:9 **Whatever God forms—He fills!** His desire is to fill you with FAITH!

Here are five life changing 'by faith' declarations.

1. By Faith "A Godly Legacy" Heb 11:20-22

- (a) Legacy faith: In this passage we see Isaac, Jacob and Joseph make godly end-of-life 'faith' decisions that heal their families and honor God.
- **(b) How do we pass on faith?** By being faithful to God in our last days and/or the last days of others.

2. By Faith "Godly Decisions" Heb 11:23-29

- (a) Making a stand for God: Notice these powerful transitive verbs; refused, choosing, esteeming, forsook, kept and passed.
- **(b) By faith decisions:** The key here is that Moses made these decisions based on trusting in what God said. He had to take God at His word!
- **(c) Forsaking Egypt:** This is in part a metaphor for forsaking the world system around us and living in the power and presence of God's Kingdom.

3. By Faith "Godly Accomplishments" Heb 11:30-35a

(a) Great exploits: All of the events and people mentioned in this section represent great exploits by God.

"By faith" and "by God" should be one and the same!

(b) Are there any great exploits in my life? There may be but you just don't know about it yet. Instead of saying, "I could never do that," try saying "by faith Lord I'll step out with you."

4. By Faith "Godly Trials" Heb 11:35b-38

- (a) How good is your faith? Living 'by faith' does not mean that we will escape trials and tests. However it is 'by faith' that we can endure even unto death.
- **(b)** A better resurrection: This verse (:35b) reminds us that whatever we go through here on earth—our real home and real peace is when we see Christ face to face at His return.

5. By Faith "Godly Victory" Heb 11:39-40

- (a) By faith a good testimony: When we live 'by faith' we build a 'good testimony' to our family, friends and the world.
- **(b)** By faith made perfect: The issue is not that the Old Testament Saints (Hasidim) did not receive the promise in their lifetime—it is rather that we BOTH will receive the promise when the Messiah establishes His Kingdom in the future. (See also 1 Peter 1:8-12)

They looked forward to the guarantee of the promise (the death and resurrection of the Messiah) while we look back to that same guarantee.

"This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

1 John 5:4

Hebrews 11:20-40 (NKJV)

20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

- **21** By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.
- **22** By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.
- 23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command. **24** By faith Moses, when he became of age, <u>refused</u> to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, **25** choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. 27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible. **28** By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them. **29** By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned.
- **30** By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days. **31** By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.
- **32** And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of *Gideon* and *Barak* and *Samson* and *Jephthah*, also of *David* and *Samuel* and the *prophets*:
- 33 who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.
- 35 Women received their dead raised to life again.

Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. **36**Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. **37** They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—**38** of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

39 And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, **40** God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.