

# PATHFINDERS

## ST. LAWRENCE

### HEBREWS 11:17-40, 21 FEBRUARY 2020



<h2>Intro</h2>	<p>In this passage, the author of Hebrews keeps on with talking about faith. He goes into even more detail about how faith has always been the most important part about following God. The author talks about all the people in the Old Testament, and how they trusted in God's power, looking forward to the promise He gave them about Jesus!</p>
<h2>Read</h2>	<p><b>Hebrews 11:17-40 (NIV UK)</b></p> <p>Read it here:</p> <p><a href="https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=hebrews+11%3A17-40&amp;version=NIVUK">https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=hebrews+11%3A17-40&amp;version=NIVUK</a></p> <p>Or if you prefer, listen to David Suchet read it here:</p> <p><a href="https://www.biblegateway.com/audio/suchet/nivuk/Heb.11.1-Heb.11.16">https://www.biblegateway.com/audio/suchet/nivuk/Heb.11.1-Heb.11.16</a></p>
<h2>Watch</h2>	<div data-bbox="413 1532 777 1805" data-label="Image"> </div> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ps8-3SOcMgU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ps8-3SOcMgU</a></p> <p>This is an animated reading of Hebrews 11 and 12 that does a great job helping us understand what the text means!</p>
<h2>Think</h2>	<p><b>Let's refresh our memories again about what faith is! What does the beginning of this chapter say that faith is?</b></p> <p>The author of this letter, building on what he said earlier about faith, begins to show just how important faith is to following God. To do this, the author gives all sorts of examples from the Old Testament about how people were living in faith that God would do what He said He would.</p>

**What are some of these examples of faith that the author of Hebrews gives us? How does what the author describes match up with how faith is defined earlier on in the chapter?**

In verses 17-22, we see some pretty incredible examples of people trusting God in faith. Abraham trusted that even if God commanded him to do something really hard like sacrificing Isaac, that God would still be able to bring about His promise to Him to make him into a family whose members would one day be great in number (Genesis 12). Later on, Abraham's son Isaac blessed his own sons and trusted God in faith that He would bring about His plan in their lives. Isaac's son Jacob blessed each of his sons too, giving a prophecy over each of them before he died, trusting in faith that God would be able to bring about the prophecy in their lives. God later told Joseph, Isaac's son (the guy who had the cool coat of many colours!), that one day the Israelites would leave Egypt and go back to Israel where they'd fled from because of famine. Joseph trusted in God's word to Him so much that he commanded the Israelites to pass down the word through the generations after him to not leave his bones in Egypt when they left, but to take them back to Israel with them.

**What do these examples tell us about faith? Did these Old Testament characters live long enough to see the Word that God said to them fulfilled?**

The author then shifts to talking about Moses. Do you remember who Moses is? He is probably the most important man in the Old Testament! He led the Israelites out Egypt back to the Promised Land, Israel in a big move that the Bible calls the "Exodus." Moses was the one who God gave the Ten Commandments to! This section talks all about how Moses came from a family who already trusted God in faith. They knew that Moses was bound for big things and because of their trust in God's plan for Moses, they hid him away from Pharaoh, who had commanded all the Israelite boys be murdered. Later, after Moses was adopted into the royal Egyptian household of Pharaoh, he willingly left it because he believed that to be persecuted and bullied by the Egyptians for being an Israelite was better than living an easy life that was filled with all kinds of sin and riches. Moses trusted in God's Word that He would deliver the Israelites from being slaves in Egypt and wasn't afraid of what Pharaoh could do because He knew that God was bigger, God was better, and that God was fully in control.

**Take a look at verse 26. What does the author of the letter say that Moses thought was better than the treasures of Egypt?**

All throughout this passage, the author says that faith was central to everything that these people in the Old Testament did. But what did they have faith in? What was it that made their faith so strong? They endured some pretty grim things because of the power that their faith brought them. So, what was the powerful thing they were trusting in faith? Well, it was the promise of Jesus! They knew that one day God's promise of a Saviour would come. They knew that there were promises of God that had yet to come to pass and because God had been so trustworthy in the past, He would definitely be able to take care of the promise that He'd made them.

**What were some of the things that the characters of the Old Testament were able to achieve by the power of having faith in Jesus? What does that mean about *your* faith in Jesus then?**

See, their faith was in God Himself, and in His promise of Jesus. That's what kept them through all of the homelessness, persecution, and torture; they knew it was all worth it because the hope that Christ's coming would bring would be so glorious that it wouldn't even compare to the hard times they were facing. Because they were so sure that the promise would come to pass because of God's trustfulness, it strengthened them to endure the pain they were facing at that moment.

**Why can we trust God? What can you trust God about right now?**

We know that God is not only completely trustworthy because of what He's done in the past, but also because of how good He is. See, the coming of Jesus shows us that God loves us so much and that He wants to be in a relationship with us. He didn't stay in heaven apart from us but promised to come here Himself and not only to come here and live with us, but to even *die* for us so that our sin would no longer keep us from His presence.

## Listen

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sIaT8Jl2zpl>



It is not easy to trust Jesus in faith when life doesn't seem to match up with what His Word says about how much He loves you. This song is all choosing to trust in God even when you are full of doubt.

## Pray

- Think about something in your life that is hard and ask God to help you trust Him in faith in it.
- Are there places in your life that you haven't trusted God? Think about those things and talk to God about them. He wants to hear from you about your doubt!