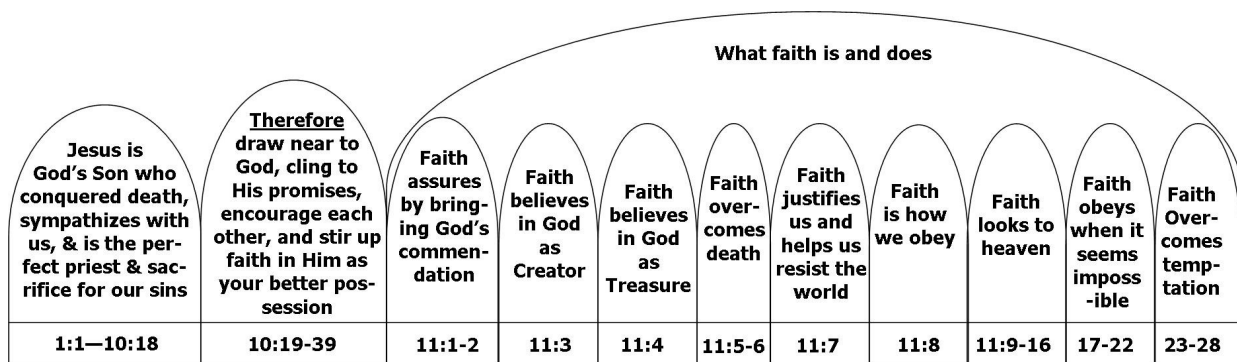


The Letter To The Hebrews Faith Works Miracles And Suffers Hebrews 11:29-40

Introduction

Some people think the Christian life is all about miracles. Others that it's all about suffering. The truth is given in Hebrews 11:29-40 — in four crucial truths —
But first — here's an overview of where we have come —



Here are the four crucial truths —

By faith people work miracles and avoid suffering (vv.29-35a)

Here the author tells us about Israel crossing the Red Sea, the walls of Jericho tumbling down, Rahab not being destroyed with the rest of Jericho, and many other miracles all which were accomplished by faith in God.

By faith people endure trials and suffering (vv.35b-38)

Here the author tells us how people with the same faith in God are called to undergo terrible suffering. They had the same strong faith in God. But God called them to go through many trials — because that's how they would gain the greatest joy in Him.

So faith can mean a life of amazing miracles — or great suffering. That can leave us feeling insecure. Is there anything we can be sure of? We can hope in? Yes.

Everyone who has faith will be commended by God in this life (v.39)

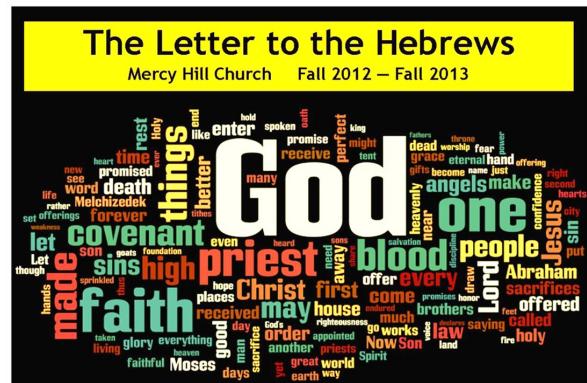
As we live by faith in Christ, we will have times when God commends us by pouring His love into our hearts so we are assured that we are saved and that He loves us. This is infinitely better than any miracle, and will sustain us through every trial.

In the life to come everyone who has faith will receive what is promised (vv.39-40)

No OT saints received the main promise — which is the better country (v.16).

This is what we will all receive at the end of history. So don't put your hope in miracles. And don't be discouraged by suffering.

As you trust Christ God will commend you now — and bring you to heaven forever.



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

Have you ever thought the Christian life was all about miracles? Or that it was all about suffering? How did this affect you? What bearing did Sunday's passage have on this?

What is this passage saying to those who are experiencing miracles?

What is this passage saying to those who are experiencing suffering?

Do you agree that God's commending us means He pours His love into our hearts so we feel and sense his love, assurance, and forgiveness? Why or why not?

Why is it so important for those experiencing miracles to focus on God's commending of us?

Why is it so important for those experiencing suffering to focus on God's commending of us?

How does it help those experiencing miracles to see that they have not received the main thing God has promised?

How does this help those who are suffering?

How did this passage strengthen your resolve to trust Jesus Christ?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.

