

FOCUS FOR THE UNFORESEEABLE

FOCUS

Heb. 11:32 - 38

Heb. 11:32 And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:

33 Who **through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought 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, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.**

35 **Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:**

36 **And others** had trial of *cruel* mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

37 **They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, 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 *in* mountains, and *in* dens and caves of the earth.

Our theme this year is...

VISION 20/20
HIS VISION. OUR FOCUS.

During the last couple of months, we have been observing situations where men and women in the Scriptures faced unforeseeable circumstances and walked by faith as they encountered them.

As we focus upon the present, there is much confusion, panic, and hysteria among the people of America, including some of our church members. Besides the COVID-19 pandemic, riots are destroying many cities, protesters are marching, statues are being torn down, and many good people are being misled, coerced, and manipulated. Various organizations, as well as state governments, are threatening good, innocent people who are just wanting to live their lives in peace and tranquility.

How should believers face the unforeseeable future? This morning, we will look at a comprehensive review of Biblical characters, what they faced, how they faced them, and how we can have assurance of facing challenges in the future.

I. COMPARE THE CHALLENGES OF UNFORESEEABLE EVENTS IN THE PAST

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A. The Magnitude of the Threats

- The Threat of Defeat
- The Threat of Death
- The Threat of Discouragement
- The Threat of Despair
- The Threat of Destitution
- The Threat of Distress
- The Threat of Desolation

B. The Managing of the Trials

Heb. 11:33 “Who through faith...”

- Facing the unforeseeable future begins “by faith” – in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Instead of a pity-party, consider that challenges are NOT uncommon.

1 Cor. 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you **but such as is common to man**: but **God is faithful**, who will not suffer you to be **tempted above that ye are able**; but **will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it**.

- Focus upon the ever-present Savior and His power to overcome the challenges.

Heb. 13:5 *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and **be content** with such things as ye have: for he hath said, **I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee**.*

II. COMPARE THE COMPASSION OF UNSEPARABLE ENGAGEMENT IN THE PRESENT

A. Instead of focusing upon potential tragedies, focus upon the promised triumphs.

- Remember that we are weak.

Joel 3:10 Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: **let the weak say, I am strong.**

2 Cor. 12:10 **Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.**

- Rest in Christ for our strength.

Rom. 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? **If God be for us, who can be against us?**

Phil. 4:13 **I can do all things through Christ** which strengtheneth me.

- Regardless of the unforeseeable future, NOTHING can separate us from the love of Christ.

Rom. 8:35 **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?** *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

B. Instead of focusing upon possible troubles, focus upon the promised truth.

Mt. 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, **lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.** Amen.

Mt. 11:28 **Come unto me**, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 **Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me**; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and **ye shall find rest unto your souls.**

30 For **my yoke it easy, and my burden is light.**

III. COMPARE THE CONQUERINGS OF UNBELIEVABLE EXTENSION VIA HIS POWER

Rom. 8:37 Nay, **in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.**

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall **be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

A. The Inseparable Fellowship

- NOTHING can separate the love of Christ from His children.
- Such a relationship with God is predicated upon a spiritual foundation.

Jn. 4:24 **God is a Spirit:** and they that worship him **must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.**

- A spiritual relationship begins with a spiritual birth:

Jn. 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water **and of the Spirit**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and **that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**

- Spiritual growth is predicated upon spiritual exercises:
 - The spiritual guidance of the Bible:

Jn. 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: **the words** that I speak unto you, **they are spirit, and they are life.**

Eph. 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and **the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:**

Heb. 4:12 For **the word of God is quick, and powerful**, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

- The spiritual assurance through prayer:

1 Cor. 14:15 What is it then? **I will pray with the spirit**, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

- The spiritual strength of daily implementation:

Gal. 5:16 *This* I say then, **Walk in the Spirit**, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. ...

22 But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ...

25 If **we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.**

Eph. 3:16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, **to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;**

B. The Indisputable Fruitfulness

- Proof of an inseparable fellowship is indisputable fruitfulness.

Mt. 13:23 But he that received seed into **the good ground** is he that heareth the word, and understandeth *it*; **which also beareth fruit**, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

Jn. 15:4 Abide in me, and I in you. As **the branch cannot bear fruit of itself**, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5 I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: **He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. ...**

8 **Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. ...**

16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that **ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain**: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

- Proof of an inseparable fellowship is the purpose of chastening “...of whom all are partakers.” (Heb. 12:8)

Heb. 12:11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward **it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.**

Conclusion

Facing the unforeseeable future should motivate us to understand two pivotal perspectives:

1. We are too vulnerable and weak to handle things on our own.
2. We must be in close fellowship with Christ and His promises.

Jas. 4:8 **Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.** Cleanse *your* hands, ye sinners; and purify *your* hearts, ye double minded.

Eph. 3:20 Now **unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,**

21 Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.