**Faith – what more can we say?**

Hebrews 11:32-40; 12:1-2

**Introduction:**

* SOMETIMES, no matter how sincere we are, how slowly we move, how we do our best to explain, some people might still not understand.
* SOMETIMES, we need to remember that there might be nothing more that we can say.
* SOMETIMES, we need to remember that even the best life examples might not seem to be understood.
* AT ALL TIMES, we need to remind ourselves and others that is something better is provided for us and that becomes ours and theirs when we are looking to Jesus the founder and perfecter of our faith.

When we are doing our best to encourage others to embrace the Gospel and Jesus by faith, we should be willing to invest every last ounce of energy, every truth from the word of God, every idea that the Holy Spirit brings to mind with the prayer that while salvation is by grace through faith, we must reinvest everything that God has entrusted to us.

That seems to be the heart cry of the writer of Hebrews, especially as we consider Hebrews 11:32-40.

1. **What more can I say? Time would fail me to tell of:**
   * Gideon – one of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   * Barak – a little known \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who believed God’s promise of victory
   * Samson – a man whose \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ came from God
   * Jephthah – whose \_\_\_\_\_\_ was from God and whose \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was from God
   * David – a man after God’s own \_\_\_\_\_
   * Samuel – a prophet who fought \_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_
   * The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises
   * Women – received back their \_\_\_\_, tortured
   * Others – suffered, tortured, killed … OF WHOM THE WORLD WAS NOT \_\_\_\_\_
2. **All of these, though commended by faith:**
   * Did not receive what was **\_\_\_\_\_\_,**
   * Since God **\_\_\_\_\_\_** something better for us,
   * That apart from us they should not be made **\_\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

Neither faith, not hope, nor salvation from sin and new life in Christ, nor any other aspect of our restored relationship with our Father in heaven should be allowed to displace our focus on Jesus the author and finisher of out faith. THEREFORE:

* Let us lay aside every \_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Let us run with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + The race that is before us
  + Looking unto Jesus who for the joy that was set before Him:
    - Endured the cross
    - Despising the shame
    - Is seated at the right hand of the throne of God

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