



## Gained Approval

**Hebrews 11:39-40** “And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect.”

We have come to our final class in this series. We have taken a close look at ten of the fifteen specific names listed in Hebrews 11, the chapter of faith, conviction and courage. These were all heroes. They all had to make difficult choices. They faced incredible opposition. By faith, they stand approved of God. They are listed here as a reminder to the Hebrew Christians to keep on and to “Finish what was started.” They are not the only ones to walk the difficult road of faith. “Surrounding us” (12:1) are these great examples and reminders.

And, for us, these witnesses, along with the N.T. “cloud of witnesses,” encourage us to remain strong and faithful to the Lord.

### **A. We must see that the contrast between “them” and “us” is not so \_\_\_\_\_**

- The “them” are these O.T. witnesses, heroes of faith  
The “us” are the Hebrew Christians who were currently suffering

(a) The “them” gained approval through their faith

What do we learn about their faith?

- Faith led to \_\_\_\_\_
- Faith led them to trust God when it was \_\_\_\_\_
- Faith led them to stay with God when they were \_\_\_\_\_  
Vs 35-37 details multiple ways they were killed  
It takes more faith to \_\_\_\_\_ than it does to \_\_\_\_\_  
It takes more faith when the answer to our prayer is \_\_\_\_\_  
It takes more faith to look beyond our lifetime to the \_\_\_\_\_
- Faith led them to seek the approval of God and not the \_\_\_\_\_  
of the world
- By faith they were approved though they were far from \_\_\_\_\_  
The Hebrew story does not bring up their failures  
The Hebrew story does not build upon God’s grace but the active  
obedience and trust of these OT faithful

(b) “us” are the Hebrew Christians that had a wavering faith because of trials  
God has something better for us. We ought to be more \_\_\_\_\_  
And, for us, what’s our excuse?

### **B. We must seek to be \_\_\_\_\_ of God**

- Mt 25:21 The approval of God is the greatest compliment one can ever receive
- What troubles come when we try to get the world to like us?  
James 4:4  
2 Cor 5:9

(a) How do we become approved of God?

2 Tim 2:15 You cannot be right with God and wrong with the \_\_\_\_\_  
Rom 14:17-18



(b) This great “cloud of witnesses” remind us to lay aside the things that slow us down and the sin that easily trips us

- Who in Hebrews 11 had to lay aside something?

- run with endurance (12:1,2,3)

- run fixing our eyes on the enduring Jesus (12:2)

**C. We must continue on because God has provided something \_\_\_\_\_ for us**

- these heroes did not receive what we have (12:28; 12:22-24)

When I stand beside ABEL, I’m reminded that

When I stand beside ENOCH, I’m reminded that

When I stand beside NOAH, I’m reminded that

When I stand beside ABRAHAM, I’m reminded that

When I stand beside SARAH, I’m reminded that

When I stand beside Joseph, I’m reminded that

When I stand beside Moses, I’m reminded that

When I stand beside Rahab, I’m reminded that

When I stand beside Gideon, I’m reminded that

When I stand beside Samson, I’m reminded that

When I stand beside David, I’m reminded that

When I stand with Jesus, I’m reminded that

**Hebrews 12:28-29** “Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe: for our God is a consuming fire.”

