Becoming Champions of Faith: Courage
Hebrews 11:30-40
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Hebrews 11:30-40 By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days. [31] By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient. [32] And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, [33] who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions [34] quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. [35] Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. [36] Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. [37] They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated-- [38] the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground. [39] These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, [40] since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect. (NIV)

Our Vision: Connect with Christ, Church, and Community

1. _____ for courage

_____ of God's faithfulness: Look! Have I not commanded you twice? Be strong and courageous! Do not be cowardly or terrified because the Lord your God is with you wherever you may go.
Joshua 1:9 (JOT)

_____ transformation: By faith Rahab the prostitute in Jericho who welcomed the Hebrews spies in peace did not perish as an unbeliever, but was transformed into a faithful believer of God.
Hebrews 11:31 (JOT)

2. _____ for a more courageous faith

_____ God's calling: By faith, these people overthrew kingdoms, ruled with justice, and received what God had promised them. They shut the mouths of lions, quenched the flames of fire, and escaped death by the edge of the sword. Their weakness was turned to strength.
Hebrews 11:33-34 (NLT)

_____ the conviction of truth: Others were cruelly tortured rejecting earthly redemption in order to gain a more powerful resurrection to God's presence…the world was not worthy of them!
Hebrews 11:35b, 38a (JOT)

_____ God's ultimate plan: All of these people testified to the power of faith in a living God…. God has given us a better insight into his plan but their faith, commitment, and sacrifice would not be complete without us and us without them!
Hebrews 11:39-40 (JOT)

3. _____ toward a greater strength

_____ with Christ: I've told you all this so that by trusting me, you will be unshakable and assured, deeply at peace. In this godless world, you will continue to experience difficulties. But take heart! I've conquered the world.
John 16:33 (MSG)

Spiritual Action Step

Where in your life are you struggling with fear? Where do you need to celebrate God's faithfulness to you? Where do you need to trust God more and worry less? Paul asks in Romans 8:35, *"What shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble, hardship, persecution…?"* The answer is simple, *"Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ!"* Let this love assure you of God's faithfulness and forgiveness. Admit that you need God's help. Acknowledge that Jesus is your Savior and Lord. Let God share with you this love that can transform your life! This week, read Romans 8 and John 16 to allow the Holy Spirit to fill you with the courage of God's presence!

Translations: NIV: New International Version; JOT: Jon's Own Translation; NLT: New Living Translation; MSG: The Message.