



Campbell Chapel

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SERMON TRANSCRIPTION

HEROIC FAITH

Wednesday, February 20, 2019

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I want to say this and the reason that I want to say this is that it has never happened to me in all the years that I have been a Christian; this has never happened to me. I was somewhere praying last night, and if you have ever prayed much and if you have ever been in different places; you know the spirit of satan. You know who he is. You know what he does, the influence that he brings, and the pressure that he brings. You know the words that he brings and all that he does. I was there. I knew what was there. I knew what was going on. I knew very much, no doubt in my mind. I never thought about doing this. You can say I'm a whack... As I was there, I thought, you know I remember one time when Jesus prayed and told the demons to leave two guys and go over and get in a bunch of swine. Do you know what they did? The demons left and went over to the swine and everything was fine. I began to pray and said, "Lord, I know I'm not you. I am not you. I don't have your power. I cannot command anybody, any spirit to do anything. Lord, if it is your will; remove the demons that are here. Remove the demons and the devil that are causing all the issues and the problems, and all the things that are going on where I was at." Again, in all my life I have never experienced the flooding of the presence of God like came in that.

Don't you dare think that I am saying that I can cast out demons because I did not. I did not do that. However, I am serving a God that does. I'm serving a God that does cast out demons. Amen!

I am so very glad that when we get in situations like that that the enemy is surrounding us—there is power in His name. There is power in the name of Jesus. There is power in His name. There is power in His Word. We are blessed tonight. Do you know that? I have said this a million times in life. I think we live so far below and we miss out on so many blessings in life because we won't take God at what He said in His Word.

Hebrews 11

There is one little thought on my mind tonight and it is the word "Faith."

What do you think about Faith in God? Do you think it is important? The Bible says that without faith it is impossible to please God. Isn't it? We cannot please God if we do not have faith in Him. Do you know the word faith does not mean what we think it means? Sometimes we think that we see something then we will have faith in it. Faith in God does not work that way. If we are going to have faith in God then we need to put faith in God, despite the circumstances, despite what all is going on around us, despite how that we feel, despite everything else that is going on; when we have faith in God—we will believe Him despite all this stuff.

I want to talk about just two or three people tonight that had heroic faith. They were people that we are going to find out here they were not perfect. They had all kinds of issues. As I read the Bible and if I was going to have a chapter to describe great heroic men of faith; some of the guys that are here, I would not have put in the book. Amen! I am going to talk about one of them in a minute. Some of the people that are in this that as I read their story, in the Old Testament; that probably as I read the story and as I read what the writer of Hebrews said here about these men of great faith—I probably would have left some of them out. Because when I look at their lives, I don't see great faith.

Do you know what God does? God sees more than we see. Amen! God sees what is going on. God knows what is going on.

Hebrews 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:*

Hebrews 11:33 *Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,*

Hebrews 11:34 *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.*

As you read this chapter, the writer is talking about—and he mentions many people here—about that had great faith. We know that he mentions, Abel, Enoch. We know that he mentions Noah and great people such as Abraham. He mentions Sarah. We can go on down through here reading the great people; about Jacob, Joseph, and Moses; and all these people. They were men and women, just like me and you. There was not anything about any of these people that if we could look at their lives that we would say that they were supernatural. We can't do that. They were just human beings. They were people that were born just like you and me were. They were people that probably had a little bit less knowledge and a little bit less light than we have today about God. However, these men and women trusted Almighty God. They trusted Almighty God in some very horrible situations. They trusted God and they put God first and they decided they were going to trust God, and by doing that, as we read the stories about all these different people; not only did some of them save themselves but also, they saved their families also. Noah is a good illustration of that. Also, Rahab the harlot knew nothing about the God of heaven. She was a Gentile lady. She lived on the wall in the city of Jericho. Yet, she put faith in the God of heaven. When the armies came, when the battle came, do you know what she did? She did just exactly what the man of God told her to do. She stayed in her house and she brought her family in the house. When the gates fell and the walls fell and everybody died; do you know what happened? She lived and her family lived because she put faith in Almighty God.

Listen. If there is anything in my life and in your life that we need it is faith in Almighty God. In the world that we live in today, without faith, without faith in God; life is going to be very miserable. Life is going to be very tough if we do not have faith in God.

These two or three people that we want to talk about...about some people here that has some heroic faith. These were people here that did some outstanding things. The first one I read to you was Gideon.

We all know the story of Gideon. When you read the book of Judges, we know that the children of Israel had sinned, like they had done so many times before. They had sinned and God had judged them. However, something happened one day. The Lord came along and He spoke to a fellow by the wine press and he was there thrashing wheat. He was not on top of a hill but he was down in a valley. He was down there thrashing wheat and hiding it from the Midianites. Israel had sinned. The Midianites and Amorites would come with all their people, and animals. They would come when it came harvest time they would steal everything that the Israelites had. It went on for year after year. God spoke to a man by the name of Gideon. He calls him a mighty man of valor. Do you know what that means? It means that he is a heroic guy. Even though Gideon did not understand that at the time; Gideon believed God. He put faith in Almighty God. He decided he was going to believe God. He put out a call. The armies rallied and they came. He had 32,000 men in his army. That is a whole bunch of people. Do you know what God said? Lest you get exalted in yourself and Israel get exalted in themselves and become prideful and so forth; you have way too many people. You have 32,000 people. You don't need that many. He gave them a test. We know that he asked them a question, those that are fearful and afraid then you need to go home. Immediately, 22,000 of them left. Now he is down to 10,000. So, He said, take them down to the creek and those that will drink water by taking their hand and lifting it to their mouth...then that is your people. Then those that put their face down in the water, then you don't need them. He ends up with 300 guys. He had 300 men out of 32,000. Don't tell that is not going to take faith. If you are going to go up against an army that is so much better than... These guys did not know how to fight. They were not fighters. They did not know anything about fighting. However, Gideon put faith in Almighty God. Do you know what he did? He did not have m16's. He did not have any tanks. He did not have any stealth fighters. Do you know what he had? Something very simple. He just simply had a sword in one hand, and they had a candle with a pitcher over it in the other hand. That is all they had to go up against this mighty army.

Listen. That takes faith in Almighty God.

Do you know what Gideon knew? Gideon had already put God to the test if you read the story. He knew that God was going to deliver him. He did do that. God did do that in a miraculous way, Gideon won a tremendous battle with 300 men using a pitcher, and a candle. Do you know what God did? God gave great deliverance. Amen! Great faith. He had heroic faith.

Here is the one that I thought about all day today. Again, how you pronounce his name; I'm not really sure. Well, let's talk about Barak, Samson and these guys. These guys...Samson... If you were going to write a book, me and you, about someone with a tremendous faith; I probably would not put Samson in there. Samson, God called Samson to have the Nazarite vow. What that means is to live a life of self-control and stay away from the fleshly stuff, and consecrate yourself unto God. He never did really do that but that is what he was called to do. However, Samson had all kinds of fleshly issues. The biggest issues that Samson had was with women. He could not stay away from women. Yet, Samson won many battles. He took the jaw bone of an ass and killed 1,000 people with it one day because the Spirit of God was upon him. He carried the gates of Gaza for 30 or 40 miles. If you read a little bit about that sometime, those gates probably weighed several tons when he picked them up and carried them away. We know that he died. We know that he sinned. We know that he stepped across the line. We know that the enemy put his eyes and took him down and put him in a hole in the ground. He was grinding. They made fun of him. They did all kinds of things to him.

However, he made himself available to God for one last time. They were making sport out of him. They were making fun with him. They, no doubt, were saying all kinds of things about him. The little guy that was leading him around—Samson said, if you don't mind, take me to the pillars that holds this place up. Do you know where he was at? He was in the temple of Dagon. There were thousands of people there. Do you know what he did? The young man took him over there and he put his hands on the pillars that holds this place up and do you know what he does? Lord, please hear me one more time. Do you know what God did? He heard him. Do you know what Samson did by the power of Almighty God? He pushes the pillars over and the whole place comes crashing down. Samson killed more in his death than he ever did in his life.

He made himself available. Even though he had all kinds of issues. Even though he had all kinds of problems; the Lord put him in His book as a man of great faith, a man of great faith. People who had great faith in Almighty God.

One other person. This guy whose name is Jephthae—this guy was an amazing fellow. Again, the Israelites had sinned. They had transgressed the Law of God. There was a prophetess in the land by the name of Deborah. Do you remember reading the story? It is in the book of Judges. Read it. She was there and she came and told him one day, "You can deliver these people. You can deliver Israel. You can do that." That is what this woman was telling him. Do you know what he did? Get this. Read it. Deborah the prophetess, Deborah was a judge—God was using her to be a judge over His people. He said to her, "I will go to battle, and I will fight the enemy if you go with me. If you don't go with me, I'm not going." Do you remember reading that? That is in the Bible. That is there. Here this judge named Deborah, looks at a guy and said, "You can do this." The guys said, "Hey, I'm not going to battle unless you go with me." Do you know what she said? "That is no problem. I will go with you." We know the story. Do you

know what happened? They won a great victory. Do you know what they did? They killed everyone of their enemies, except one. His name was Sisera. Do you know what happened to him? He is on the run. He goes up to a certain place and goes in the house, the Bible tells us what the lady's name is and who her husband was. He goes in and starts telling who he is and so forth. She finally convinces him to lay down. Do you remember that story? Do you remember what else happens? She takes a big nail, while he is laying on the ground, and puts it to his head, and drives a nail through his head. Do you remember that? Come on guys! You remember that!

Listen. People of great faith... I wouldn't want to eat biscuits at that lady's house. People of great faith, like Samson and like Barak, and like Noah, and like Samuel and great men and women that God has used down through time. These were people that took great responsibilities without saying anything. People that stepped out by faith, as Peter did and walked on the water. Lord, I have never done that before but I am going to try it. Taking step by step by step...

Do you know what you will never...? You will never go wrong in life when you put your trust in Almighty God. Put your Faith in Almighty God. I have said this a million times. We need to have confidence in men but your faith had better be in God because friend, that is who is going to come and get us and take us home is the Lord Jesus Christ.

These folks here subdued kingdoms. ...They obtained promises. They stopped the mouth... They did all kinds of things simply because they chose in spite of all the circumstances, all the problems, all the discouragements, all that was going on... They decided "I'm going to trust the God of heaven. I'm going to trust Him. I'm going to follow Him. Whatever happens, whatever comes; I am going to follow Him all the way to the end. Do you know what they did? They did that and God blessed their lives. Do you know what He will do today? He will do the same thing for us today. When we will put faith in Him, God will bless our lives. He will bless our lives. If you don't put any faith in God then you are not going to be blessed of Almighty God because without that we can't please God.

Put faith in Jesus Christ.

Come and pray—