

Faith for Miracles & Martyrs

Hebrews 11:32-39

I. **FAITH FOR MIRACLES** (32-35a)—validated in life with positive outcome

A. **Stories of Victory and Success**

1. **Military Victory**—defense and conquest
2. **Political Advancement**—government reform, civil peace and prosperity
3. **Miraculous Deliverance**—rescue and protection
4. **Medical Miracles**—healing and resurrection
5. **Personal Achievement**—overcoming fears and flaws to achieve greatness

B. **Changed the World**—overcame evil, made world a better place

II. **FAITH FOR MARTYRDOM** (35b-38)—not vindicated in life with positive outcome

A. **Stories of Faithfulness in Suffering** (Mat 5:10-12)—persecution

1. **Physical Abuse**—violence, torture, prison, death
2. **Social Stigma**—mocked, marginalized, excluded, exiled
3. **Economic Hardship**—loss of employment, opportunity, property; poverty, homeless, poor clothing
4. **Emotional Stress**—“destitute, afflicted, mistreated”

B. **Shamed the World**—their witness rebuked the world.

1. **Lived Holy Lives in Ungodly World**—witness against wickedness
2. **Answered to a Higher Authority**—moral courage

3. **Seeking Better Reward**—God’s favor greater value than world
4. **Hope beyond this Life**—eternity puts life in perspective

III. **FAITH FOR US** (39-40)—same faith

A. **For All Times**—always relevant

1. **Continuity of Scripture** (Jd 1:3)—special revelation from God
 - a. **Historical**
 - b. **Prophetic**
 - c. **Authoritative**
2. **Unchanging Nature of God**—faith *in Him*
 - a. **His Character** (Mal 3:6)—consistent
 - b. **His Plans** (Isa 46:10)—history is going somewhere

B. **All-Encompassing** (Ecc 3:1-8; Isa 30:21)

1. **Faith for All of Life**
 - a. **Lived Relationship with God**—“Audience of One”
 - b. **Informs Every aspect of life**—integrity, our character
2. **Faith for Every Situation**—righteous response for everything
 - a. **Faith employs Wisdom**. (Eph 5:10, 15-16)—not a one-size fits all formula
 - b. **Wisdom requires Knowing God**. (Col 1:9-11)—His character, His heart
3. **Faith for Every Individual** (Lk 3:12-14; Col 3:17)—expressed in individual lives (different personalities, gifts & ministries, styles)

C. **With All the Saints**—All God’s people (OT & NT) are saved by Christ and together look forward to His Second Coming

Find words for “Jesus, Priceless Treasure” at:
<https://clcgracelutheranchurch.org/fridley/hymns/tlh/tlh347.htm>

Find tune at:
<https://youtu.be/6vjYI9SL0N4>