

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – September 27, 2020

Theme: The Certainty of God's Word Topic: Quarterly Review – The Victory of Faith

Main Text: Hebrews 11:1- 40

Key verse: Hebrews 11:1-2 *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony."* (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: In the last twelve Sundays, we have explored the certainty of God's word. That exploration took us through an attribute of God, His word and ten promises of God. All aimed at helping us understand that the Word of God is sufficient for all of life, and reliable. This Sunday, as we conclude the series, we look to the example of the elders, who have gone before us. In Hebrews 10:38, believers living in challenging and uncertain times, like we are, are reminded that *'... the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.'* This encouragement may seem academic. So, Hebrews 11 outlines the triumphs of some who have walked this path of faith.

1. (a) Reading Hebrews 11, who would you consider your favourite hero or heroine of faith and why? (b) Hebrews 11:1 says, *'Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.'* How did your hero of faith demonstrate this? (c) How would you paraphrase Hebrews 11:1, and 6?

Most dictionary definitions of 'Victory' speak of winning. And that is probably the most popular idea of the word. It is most likely the one the average Christian would prefer when thinking of 'The Victory of Faith'. So, it is common to hear us say things like 'I am trusting God for ...'; 'If God has really called you, then ...' And if what we are trusting God for does not happen, we feel we have failed or that God has 'failed' us. Surprisingly, God says otherwise when HE said *'All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth.'* (Hebrews 11:13 NIV). God also said, *'And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise,'* (Hebrews 11:39 NKJ).

2. (a) Looking at Hebrews 11:13,39, how does God's definition of the victory of faith compare or contrast with our popular notion of it? (b) How do verses like Hebrews 10:38; 11:4,5,7,16 help us understand what the victory of faith really is in God's view? (c) If you are to take this God's view of the victory of faith in a situation you are trusting God for, what will that look like?

This incredible chapter of Hebrews closes with *'God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.'* (Hebrews 11:40). That faith 'Hall of Fame' cannot be closed without us! That the seemingly incredible acts of faith of the likes of Noah who built a boat in a desert; of Abraham's readiness to sacrifice his only son, Isaac; etc., cannot be complete without our own stories? No wonder Hebrews 12 opens with *'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honour beside God's throne.'* (Hebrews 12:1-2 NLT)

3. (a) How does Jesus' triumph on the Cross cement our faith victory? (b) What action steps did those mentioned in Hebrews 11 take as a demonstration of their faith in God and in His promises? See Hebrews 11: 5, 8, 19,24-26, etc (c) What one area do we want to apply the things learnt from this study and this series on the certainty of God's word?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for reminding me that Your word and promises are trustworthy. Help me to live a life which others will see and know that I believe in the certainty of Your word. Amen.