

31 July 2011 - Preached by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo

Message Topic: **By Faith, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthae, David, Samuel...**

Scripture Text: Heb 11: 32-35a

1. In these last days, we see faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is lacking. In the most basic definition of faith, it is believing and trusting only in the Lord Jesus Christ for our salvation. Faith is believing and trusting what God said in His Word without any doubt.
2. The Bible tells us that without faith, it is impossible to God. From the passage in Heb 11: 32-35, we can learn the faith of 4 Judges, 1 King and 1 Prophet.
3. From the Judge Gideon, we can learn that faith in God is always a majority. Though Gideon has only 300 men with him against the 135,000 Midianites, yet he won the battle. The reason is his faith in the Lord. From the 2nd Judge Barak, we learn that faith in God is to obey and follow the way of God. Barak knew God has appointed Deborah as the prophetess and hence wanted her to be with him in the battle. Faith in God will not strive for power nor position.
4. The 3rd Judge Samson had a bad start but ended well. He was gifted by God with strength but he compromised and fell into sin. In the final act of his life, Samson called on God in faith to destroy the enemy. God honoured Samson's faith. The 4th Judge Jephthae showed his faith in God by honouring his vow to God.
5. In King David's life, we see his faith in God before and after he became a king. To fight the giant Goliath, David trusted only in the Lord and not any of his armour and weapon. Even when David was pursued by King Saul, David trusted God and did not kill Saul but instead showed his love to him. When David sinned against God in committing the sin of adultery, he was quick to repent when prophet Nathan rebuked him. This is true faith without giving excuses for his sins.
6. In Prophet Samuel, he showed his faith in God by not being a man-pleaser. He rebuked King Saul who did not obey God fully. True faith in God will be God-pleaser and not men-pleaser.