



5) THE ULTIMATE ENDURANCE (HEBREWS 11-12)

WARM UP #1: Who is a hero to you? (i.e. someone you look up to, who inspires you)

WARM UP #2: What biblical character do you find the most heroic?

READ HEBREWS 11:1-12:3

- 1.** In verses 11:1-3 faith is described as “confidence” and “assurance”. How does this compare to non-Christian understandings of faith? Is this how you would describe it?
- 2.** In verses 11:4-6 we get another perspective on faith... it is belief in God’s existence and His reward (v6). To believe in God’s existence involves our intellect, whereas to believe in his reward seems to go beyond intellect and to our instinct for risk/reward. As you live out your faith in God, what role do your intellect and instinct have to play?
- 3.** In verses 11:7-16 both Noah (“warned about things unseen”) and Abraham (“did not know where he was going”) were in situations of uncertainty and yet called to have faith. Is there any situation in your life in which uncertainty is causing you to not fully step out in faith for God?
- 4.** In verses 11:17-19 we see that Abraham was willing to lose his only son (and the promise that would be fulfilled through him) in order to be obedient to God. What are you afraid of losing if you fully obey God and live all-out in faith for him?
- 5.** In verses 11:24-28 Moses rejected the pleasures of being identified as a prince of Egypt in order to identify with God’s people. Are you tempted in any way to identify with the world rather than be known as a Christian? What do you have to gain or lose by it?
- 6.** In verses 11:32-40 we see an incredible diversity of faith expressed and of course we know over the past 2000 years many people and stories have been added to it. How do you feel about your name being added to this list... your faith being added to this story?
- 7.** Read verses 12:1-3. How will you practically live this out in your own life? (i.e. what is hindering you that you need to throw off? how will you run with perseverance and fix your eyes on Jesus?) In other words, how will you make your life, and your faith, count?

PRAY: That we would be worthy of being included in this incredible tradition of faith!