

Your Best Life...Later

Hebrews 11:8-16, 32-40

A. True Jesus Followers...

1. Obey and follow even when the Route and Destination are unclear.

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.

Hebrews 11:8

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.”

Matthew 4:19

2. Live as Aliens and Strangers in this world.

By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.

Hebrews 11:9

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

Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear.

1 Peter 1:17

3. Look forward to a Better Country, a Heavenly one.

For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

Hebrews 11:10

People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

Hebrews 11:14-16

4. Sometimes experience Great Victories.

And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. Women received back their dead, raised to life again.

Hebrews 11: 32-35a

5. Sometimes experience Great Suffering.

There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheep skins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

Hebrews 11:35b-38

6. Always receive the Promised Inheritance.

Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

Hebrews 11:16b

These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, 40 since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

Hebrews 11:39-40

B. Live At Risk.

1. Keep Trusting the Promises of GOD.

Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

Romans 4:20-21

2. Live as Temporary Residents of the world.

Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

1 Peter 2:11-12

For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Philippians 3:18-21

3. Spend Yourself on behalf of others.

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

1 John 3:16-18

Don't play it safe. Be willing to do things that Cost You Now, but will be more than worth it in eternity.

Faith@Home

Commit yourself to spending time with GOD and His Word on at least five days this week. Read the Bible passage(s) listed.

Ask GOD for understanding. Reflect on the verses you read and write down your answers to the question(s). Pray that GOD will guide you to walk in His Word.

Day One

Read Hebrews 11:8-16

1. How was Abraham a “stranger in a foreign country?” How are we “strangers in a foreign country?”
2. Many of the promises of GOD were not fulfilled in the people’s lifetimes, but they kept on trusting (verse 13). How does a person live by faith until the end?
3. Do you long for your eternal home? (verse 16) How can you develop more of that perspective?

Day Two

Read Hebrews 11:32-40

1. What were some of the accomplishments listed here of people of faith? What are examples from your life?
2. Why do you think some people of great faith suffer so severely? (verses 35-38)
3. What is GOD saying to you through this passage?

Day Three

Read I Peter 2:11-12 and Philippians 3:18-21

1. What do these passages tell us about where our citizenship and allegiance lie?
2. What are some of the things we are told to avoid?
3. How do you plan to live life with more of an eternal perspective, to live as a “citizen” of heaven while here on earth?

Day Four

Read I John 3:16-18

1. Part of living as “citizens of heaven” is choosing not to get all wrapped up in the things of this life, our material possessions. How tied are you to your possessions?
2. How does giving things away and spending ourselves on behalf of others help us to live more completely as citizens of heaven?
3. How are you doing in this regard? What do you think GOD might be calling you to change?

Day Five

Read Psalm 27

1. What is your favorite verse from this Psalm? Why?
2. In practical terms, what do you think the writer is seeking as described in verse 4? What would that look like? Is that your desire?
3. Pray for our Sunday worship gathering.