

## Faith of the Martyrs

### Hebrews 11:35b-40

The writer of Hebrews closes this great chapter on faith with the stark reminder that faith does not guarantee a positive temporal outcome. We all recognize the reality that God does not always choose to heal us or our loved ones; He does not always shield His children from persecution or martyrdom. Does that mean that those individuals lacked faith? Does that mean that their faith somehow failed? Absolutely not!

- **Faith that refused \_\_\_\_\_ if it meant renouncing Christ. (35b)** Some of the greatest illustrations of faith do not include deliverance from suffering, but rather deliverance through suffering.

The writer of Hebrews emphasizes their faith and commitment, “not accepting their release.” In other words, the opportunity for physical deliverance was offered but not accepted. Why not? The terms of their release were too great!

**“The pinnacle of faith is exhibited in suffering for the cause of Christ.” –A. W. Pink**

- **Faith that endured regardless of the \_\_\_\_\_ encountered. (36-38)** The way of the cross is hard. These illustrations serve to remind us that we are living the Christian life in enemy territory. Any notion that the world will love us should be forgotten.

**Listen to the words of our Lord and Master: John 15:18- 20, 16:2-3, 16:33, 17:14-15**

**Every imaginable form of persecution and abuse has been employed against Christians throughout history!**

- **Faith that is rewarded with eternal \_\_\_\_\_ is better than any earthly reward. (39-40)** All of these were approved by faith, in other words, justified before a holy God on account of faith in Christ. However, their justification by faith did not always equate to deliverance from suffering or persecution.

**God provided something better for us! Remember the words of Paul, “For me to live is Christ, but to die is gain.” It pays to serve the Lord, but God does not always pay on Friday! The best is yet to come!**

**Application:**

- **Remember that God has a purpose in all things, even the suffering of His children.**
- **Remember that when God does not heal or deliver, He knows best and provides endurance and something better than temporal deliverance.**
- **Remember that our momentary affliction is not worthy to be compared to the eternal weight of glory waiting for those who love the Lord!**
- **Remember to pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters in the world.**

