

Hebrews 11:33-34 (NLT)

By faith these people overthrew kingdoms, ruled with justice, and received what God had promised them. They shut the mouths of lions, [34] quenched the flames of fire, and escaped death by the edge of the sword. Their weakness was turned to strength. They became strong in battle and put whole armies to flight.

Hebrews 11:35 (NLT)

...But others were tortured, refusing to turn from God in order to be set free. They placed their hope in a better life after the resurrection.

Hebrews 11:36-37 (NLT)

Some were jeered at, and their backs were cut open with whips. Others were chained in prisons. [37] Some died by stoning, some were sawed in half, and others were killed with the sword. Some went about wearing skins of sheep and goats, destitute and oppressed and mistreated.

**What is the
REAL Victory?**

Hebrews 11:32-40

Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)

...**FAITH** is being **SURE** of
what we **hope for**
and **CERTAIN** of what we do not see.

Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)

...**without FAITH** it is impossible to please
God, because anyone who comes to Him
must **BELIEVE** that **He exists** and that
He rewards those who earnestly **SEEK HIM**.

God has NOT promised
wholesale DELIVERANCE
in this life for his people
at ALL times
and in EVERY situation.

Hughes

...the writer changes the emphasis
by showing that

FAITH also provides
a **DIFFERENT** empowerment
the **power** to **persevere**
to the end. Hughes

CONCLUSIONS

J. Piper

- By **FAITH** God does **AMAZING** acts -
by **Rescuing** and Saving His People
- By **FAITH** God **SUSTAINS** His people
THROUGH Terrible Hardship and
Suffering

CONCLUSIONS

J. Piper

- **FAITH** is **NOT** the **DETERMINING Factor** in whether we Suffer or Escape
- **FAITH** believes **God** is **BETTER** than what **LIFE** can offer- better than what **DEATH** can take away

James 1:2-4 (HCS)

Consider it **a great joy**, my brothers,
whenever you experience
various trials, [3] knowing that
the testing of your **FAITH** produces
ENDURANCE.

[4] But **ENDURANCE** must do its
complete work, so that you may be
MATURE and **COMPLETE**,
LACKING NOTHING.

Endurance =

steadfastness, persistence,
determination

While UNDER the TRIAL

When Endurance **FINISHES** its Work...

- **Maturity** - experienced, well-developed, fit for the tasks God has set before us
- **Complete** - Fully Trained
- **Not Lacking Anything** - more and more weakness and blind-spots eliminated

FAITH - says **THANK YOU** for the Easier times knowing that the **TESTING** of our Faith will come

FAITH - Believes that God has a **PURPOSE** in the **GOOD** times and the **HARD** times

FAITH - Trusts God for the **Strength** to **ENDURE** Joyfully in the Darkest Times

FAITH - **REFUSES** to ask **WHY ME?**

Many things in this life are utterly the opposite from the way they seem. **When the precious children of God are permitted to suffer and be rejected and mistreated and go destitute, to be afflicted and abused, God is giving a gift to the world. He is gracing the world.**

He is shedding **His love** abroad in the world. Because **IN** those who **suffer** and **die** in the **unshakable** assurance of **hope** in **God**, the world is given a message and a picture:

The **Lord Himself is BETTER** than life...
come to Him and BELIEVE. Piper

FAITH BUILDERS

➤ Recount **WHAT** God has done Before

➤ **GIVE THANKS**

1 Thess. 5:18 (HCS) Give **THANKS IN** everything,
for **this is God's will for you** in Christ Jesus.

FAITH BUILDERS

- Ask God for **HELP** to **TRUST** and **BELIEVE**

Mark 9:24 (NIV) Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; **HELP ME OVERCOME** my **UNBELIEF!**"

- Make a **COMMITMENT** to **Hang On** no matter what

FAITH BUILDERS

➤ Do what you **NEED** to **DO**

➤ **FOCUS** on **God's Goodness**

Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)

Now **FAITH** is being
SURE of what we **Hope for**
and **CERTAIN** of
what we **do NOT see.**