

## The Witness of Faith Series- Hebrews 11: 32-39/12:1-2: “Overcoming by a finished faith”

Intro: Many are the exhortations in the Christian faith to fight, to resist, to persevere, to finish, and to overcome. But, how does the Christian overcome? What is the essence and path of such a victory? What characterized the fight and victory of God’s people from OT times as compared to NT church?

- 1) Our victory does not depend and is not reflected in the circumstances of our lives whether good or bad because it is a victory apprehended by faith. Let us not be easily deceived by our sight to believe good circumstances equals victory and bad ones defeat. OT saints had their share of both good and bad and regardless, both groups overcame by faith.
- 2) God has ordained and allows varying circumstances and seasons with a purpose and a role in His redemptive plan for His people which at times include good and other times bad. But, they all serve a purpose in God’s economy of salvation. Some OT saints lived through a period of prosperity in Israel and others through decline and crisis but God was with them nonetheless.
- 3) The period of OT kingdom rise and decline serves to establish types and shadows of our future redemption in Christ as well as demonstrating the need of such redemption by the promised grace covenant rather than by the temporal and subservient law/works Mosaic covenant.
- 4) OT saints provide an example of God’s faithfulness to them in sustaining them through the promise of Christ. They suffered, fought, persevered, and finished their God appointed race by looking unto the promise of Christ’s redemption for them. NT saints look back to the same promise now already fulfilled in Christ’s finished work for the salvation of the world.
- 5) Both OT and NT saints overcome by faith, not by sight meaning- not on account of what they have done, performed, or finished- but because of what God in Christ and by the power of the Spirit planned, executed, finished, secured, and delivered as proclaimed in the Gospel message. It is Christ’s fight and victory from beginning to end on our behalf!
- 6) Jesus is called the author and finisher of our faith because He is more than just an example, inspiration, or help to us. He has done what we could not do in overcoming sin and death through His sacrifice to rise, ascend, and reign at the right hand throne of God FOR us! He has met the enemy in the battlefield, defeated, conquered, and crowned For us! The nature of our fight and race is to hold on in faith to the end unto Him and what He has accomplished for us.
- 7) Our fight in this race has been fully equipped by the resources of the person of our triumphant King. Our victory against our enemies has already been won by our Representative/Mediator before God. We do not fight in order to gain the victory, but because victory is assured and guaranteed in Christ. Our fight provides the race course already finished by our champion to demonstrate and reveal His glory.