

FULL HOUSE

What should God's Church be full of?



Pastor Hugh's Message Series Sundays 10:00am

Full of Faith (Heb. 11:32-35, NAS)
June 1, 2025

³² And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received back their dead by resurrection;

- A. We continue our series, Full House, and this morning God wants all who come to Pearl to be full of faith.

Someone has said there are 3 types of people in this world:

- Those who make things happen.
 - Those who watch things happen.
 - And those who say, "What happened?"
- B. I don't know which one of those are you, but I do know which of those 3 God wants you to be.

As a church we believe in a BIG GOD, and that means as a church we should be doing some BIG THINGS FOR GOD.

- C. And as you examine the faith of the people who made it into the "Hall of Faith" here in Hebrews 11, you are given a list of people who did some extraordinary things for God; and you are even told the extraordinary things they did.
- D. Notice in our text this morning that the writer of Hebrews begins by asking, "What more shall I say?"

He has just spent 31 verses detailing the lives of people of great faith. In fact, he wrote about 12 amazing people who had BIG FAITH in a BIG GOD.

Go to the beginning of chapter 11, and let me just label for you the kind of amazing faith each had:

Abel – worshipped by faith

Enoch – walked by faith

Noah – worked by faith

Abraham – wandered by faith

Sarah – waited by faith

Isaac – had willing faith

Jacob & Joseph – believed God's Word by faith
Moses & his parents – saw wonders (miracles) by faith
Joshua – winning faith
Rahab – she had raw faith

- E. So, guess how each of those lived their lives?
By Faith.

What is faith?

“Acting as if something is so, when it is not so, so that it will be so, because God says so” (Manley Beasley)

- F. And, as the writer of Hebrews says, “what more shall I say”.
In other words, “I’ve just given you 12 amazing examples, and that ought to fire up your faith, but I can give you many more examples of people who lived by faith, but if I do so, we’ll run out of time (literally).”

Why? Because the Bible has example after example after example of people who believed in a BIG GOD, and because they lived by faith in this BIG GOD, they did BIG THINGS FOR GOD.

That’s why you should read the Bible. It’s full of people of extraordinary faith.

- G. And following the list of 12, the writer of Hebrews simply names 6 more men and then follows it up with 10 extraordinary feats of faith.

I want you to bear with me, because you need to hear about these men.

Talk about some fascinating stories of faith:

- **Gideon** – started with an army of 32,000 men; ended up with 300 men & defeated over 120,000 Midianites.
- **Barak** – Deborah (Judge) – Used by God to kill the army of the Canaanites – Sisera, commander of the army – escaped; sought refuge in the tent of a Hebrew woman named Jael; she drove a tent peg through his temple. When Barak arrived, he saw him literally pinned to the ground.
- **Samson** – mighty in strength
Tied the tails of 300 foxes & lit a torch between each pair of tails & set all the Philistines’ grain fields, olives groves, and vineyards on fire.

With the jawbone of a donkey, he killed 1000 Philistines.

Took hold of the massive 60' doors of the city of Gaza's gate, along with the two posts & bars; and heaved them 37 miles to the top of a mountain.

Philistines captured Samson thanks to Delilah. Eyes gouged out; taken to the Philistine temple of Dagon to amuse the more than 3,000 people who stood on the roof; placed between 2 pillars of the temple; and with God-given strength, he pushed over the pillars, and brought down HOUSE (literally) on himself and all who gathered.

- **Jephthah**

He was born of a prostitute; forced out of his family by his own brothers; elders of his clan (elders of Gilead) called him to be their leader; and he became their hero killing all the Ammonites and 42,000 Ephraimites.

- **David** – what a journey he had – from defeating Goliath to running from the spear of Saul to becoming King of Israel to setting up the kingdom in Jerusalem.
- **Samuel** – Heard God's voice as a little boy and became the last Judge of Israel & the first prophet of Israel. He anointed Saul & then David as King. Samuel faithfully delivered God's Word to Israel.

You should read about these great men of faith.

H. And if their examples are not enough to grow your faith, then the writer of Hebrews gives 10 extraordinary acts of faith:

1. **Conquered Kingdoms** – defeating the Canaanites, Ammonites, Moabites

Ehud, the 2nd Judge of Israel – left handed – double-edged sword strapped to right thigh
He presents an offering to King Eglon of Moab and then told him he had a secret message for him; King Eglon was a very obese man; and when the room was cleared, Ehud thrust his sword into the king's belly (blade, handle & all) – and left it there – and his refuse poured out.

2. Performed acts of righteousness
Samuel sacrificed to God & kept the feasts of Israel.
3. Obtained Promises
David was anointed as King by Samuel as a teenager, but it took nearly 15 years for David to see the promise fulfilled.

David was promised that the temple would be built in Jerusalem; and Solomon saw that promise fulfilled.

4. Shut the mouths of lions
 - David defeated lions as a shepherd boy
 - Samson ripped a lion in two like a twig
 - Daniel didn't get a scratch when he was thrown in the lion's den. Probably in his 80's.
5. Quenched the power of fire
Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego refused to worship King Nebuchadnezzar's image – King ordered them to be thrown in the furnace; guard told to turn up the heat 7 times hotter –
Not 3, but 4 walking around and 1 like the Son of God

6. Escaped the edge of the sword

King Saul attempted to kill David 14 times – 3 of those times he threw his spear at him & missed. God spared his life.

Elijah, Elisha, Jeremiah – also escaped the sword

7. From weakness were made strong
Gideon was scared stiff of the Midianites; When we meet Gideon, he's a WIMP! He's beating his wheat in a wine press; Yet, God called him "a valiant warrior"; He saw not what he was, but what he would become; and Gideon became one of Israel's mightiest Judges & warriors – defeating the Midianites without a blow.
8. Became mighty in war
God gave King David victory after victory after victory. He conquered the Philistines, Moabites, Edomites, Syrians, and the Ammonites.
9. Put foreign armies to flight
Sennacherib, king of Assyria, invaded Jerusalem when Hezekiah was King.
Hezekiah prayed and the Lord destroyed 185,000 Assyrians that day; and the rest fled back to Assyria.
10. Women received back their dead by resurrection.
Jesus was not the first to resurrect.

God used Elijah to raise the widow's son
God used Elisha to raise the Shunammite's son.

Awesome stories.

I. What's the point of all these stories?

When we have BIG FAITH in our BIG GOD, we can accomplish BIG THINGS.

And the question is not:

Would you like to accomplish BIG THINGS for God?
But, HOW do we accomplish BIG THINGS for God?

Let me give you 3 words that characterized all these people in the Hall of Faith – especially, the 6 that are named in verse 32.

1. Mission

- A. They each realized that they were placed on this earth for a MISSION.

Not a mission for fame, fortune, or fun.
But a mission for God.

- B. In other words, God had a specific assignment for them.

- Gideon – defeat those Midianites; teach Israel to depend upon God.
- Samson – defeat the Philistines
- Samuel – bring reverence & worship to Israel
- David – conquer the land for Israel; make Jerusalem God's Holy City.

- C. But their specific mission was a step in fulfilling God's ultimate mission.

What is God's ultimate mission for you? Two words: **God's Kingdom.**

- D. How did Jesus teach us to pray?
Our Father, who are in Heaven, hallowed be Your Name.
YOUR KINGDOM COME, Your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.

What is God's mission? To bring His Kingdom to this world. To bring His rule and reign in people's lives.

- E. And guess why He saved you?
Not so you will go to Heaven.
And not just to get people in Heaven.
But to get Heaven in people here on Earth.
- F. Your mission is not to graduate, marry, have kids, work, retire, and then go to Heaven.

Your mission is to help God bring His Kingdom here to Earth.

ILL. Salvation is not the FINISH LINE
It's the STARTING LINE.

It's the day you started to bring God's rule and reign to the people who you will meet and greet every day.

- G. And all the stories in the Bible are not disconnected, but interconnected and help us understand how God's mission

is being accomplished – and how God can use you through the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to bring Heaven to the people of this earth.

That's something you and I ought to get excited about.

We are on a mission BY God
FOR God
WITH God
To bring forth THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

- H. That's a bigger mission than college.
That's a bigger mission than your career.
That's a bigger mission than your kids.
That's a bigger mission than your retirement.

The moment you got saved, you signed up to go on a mission trip. You signed up to go with God & bring His Kingdom to the people of this world.

You didn't sign up for a better life.
You didn't sign up for a comfortable life.
You didn't sign up for an easy life.
You signed up for a life-long mission trip WITH God and FOR God to bring God's Kingdom to earth.

- I. And one day soon you are going to experience His Kingdom in this world. Because God is literally going to bring His Kingdom to this Earth.
Our mission is to help Him bring it.

How?

- 1) Love your King
- 2) Learn about your King
- 3) Live for your King
- 4) Lead people to your King

Mission

2. Mountains

- A. If there is anything that is clear from our list of people of great faith and the mission God specifically had for them, it was this: They had some big mountains to move.

And if we are going to bring God's Kingdom to this earth, it's going to take moving some mountains.

- Noah's mountain was a world laughing & mocking him as he built the ark
- Abraham's mountain was wandering in a land that was occupied by other nations.
- Sarah's mountain was being too old to have kids.
- Moses' mountain was Pharaoh who would not let the people go.
- Joshua's mountain was the double-layered walls of Jericho that were unconquerable.
- Gideon's mountain were the 120,000 Midianites.

- B. When we decide to live for Jesus, we are going to face some big mountains.

They will come in multiple forms. Two primarily:

- **People**

Ruling people
Negative/Critical people
Mean people
Lazy people
Powerful people
Ungodly people
Religious people
Unequipped people

- **Satan**

He's our number one enemy. And he will do everything to put the brakes on our mission.

Eph. 6:12

Our struggle is not against flesh & blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

- C. But let me tell you the biggest mountain you will face:

MOUNTAIN OF UNBELIEF

Only one reason Israel was not allowed to enter the Promised Land and had to spend 40 years wandering in the wilderness:

UNBELIEF

Heb. 3:19 ¹⁹ So we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.

- D. There is ONE sin that so easily entangles us and keeps us from fulfilling our mission of bringing God's Kingdom to this world – UNBELIEF.

And Jesus knew that:

Mk. 12:20-24

²⁰ As they were passing by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots up. ²¹ Being reminded, Peter said to Him, "Rabbi, look, the fig tree which You cursed has withered." ²² And Jesus answered saying to them, "Have faith in God. ²³ Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be granted him. ²⁴ Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you.

How do we overcome the mountain:

BELIEF/FAITH

"Acting as if something is so, when it is not so, so that it will be so, because God says so" (Manley Beasley)

Mission, Mountain

3. Miracles

- A. What did every one of the members of the Hall of Faith experience when they decided to live by faith?

Miracles – the mighty hand and the mighty plan of God.

- Gideon defeats the 120,000 Midianites with trumpets & clay pitchers lit up like a torch.
And the Midianites killed one another.
That's a miracle.

- B. And look again at the 10 amazing feats of faith following Gideon & the other men of faith:

³³conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received back their dead by resurrection;

What do you call them? Miracles.

- C. God did miracles back then, and He's willing to do miracles today.

And guess when you will see God's miracles:

When you step out in faith.

- D. It's not you waiting on God. It's God waiting on you.

God's waiting on you...

To get on your knees & get in His Word.

To open your mouth and tell that person about Jesus.

To get out of your seat, get on your feet, and get out in the street and go for Him.

You won't do anything for God by staying in your seat.

And you'll never see God's miracles if you do nothing.

- Start a ministry to people who have addictions.
- Start a Grow Group in your home and invite your neighbors.
- Start a Bible club for kids at Iron Station Elem.
- Lead a mission trip.
- Do disaster relief (much work in western NC)
- Get to know your neighbors.
- Carry a cross in your pocket and give them away.
- Invite people to Pearl.

Don't just sit there. Do something for Jesus.

Ex. Shout out to Chad Beaty – launched Man Up for our boys.

Ex. And there are so many more:

Norma Prince – launched Wed. prayer

Merodie Wensil – buys clothes for Clothed in Grace

Rick Helderman – disaster relief/recovery

And all those who gave their time, talents & treasures to build this Worship Center.

E. Those are all steps of faith.

And when you step with faith, get ready, because you are going to see God's miracles.

And it will increase your faith and the faith of others.

F. 3 words: Mission, Mountains, Miracles

But the most important word we must get our arms around is **JESUS**.

Because Jesus said, "without Me you can do nothing."

"But with God all things are Possible."

Conclusion:

3 types of people in this world:

- Those who make things happen.
- Those who watch things happen.
- And those who say, "What happened?"

Which one will you be?