

**Faith Conquering Through God – Barak, Sampson and Jephthah**

**TEXT- Hebrews 11:32 - 34**

**INTRO-** The last two groups mentioned in Hebrews 11 are connected wholly to God. The first group CONQUERED THROUGH God and the second group SUFFERED FOR God.

- There are 7 examples of faith.
- There are 10 characteristics of their faith.

**The first four are judges and the other three are prophets. Gideon was a man of faith and next mentioned is Barak.**

**Barak**

**For twenty year Jabin the king of Canaan oppressed Israel.**

**Deborah, the prophetess, was acting as judge.**

**God spoke to her and revealed** “*Hath not the LORD God of Israel commanded, saying, Go and draw toward mount Tabor, and take with thee ten thousand men of the children of Naphtali and of the children of Zebulun?*”

**Jdg 4:6. Barak responded by faith form the Word of God spoken to Deborah. Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.**

*And Deborah said unto Barak, Up; for this is the day in which the LORD hath delivered Sisera into thine hand: is not the LORD gone out before thee? So Barak went down from mount Tabor, and ten thousand men after him. Jdg 4:14*

**The armies under Barak destroyed the armies of Jabin and Sisera fled on foot to hide. When Barak arrives at Jael’s tent he finds she had already killed the ruthless leader.**

**Then they sang the song of Deborah**

**Jabin was a ruthless leader that carried off the women of Israel**

**Jdg 5:30** *Have they not sped? have they not divided the prey; to every man a damsel or two; to Sisera a prey of divers colours, a prey of divers colours of needlework, of divers colours of needlework on both sides, meet for the necks of them that take the spoil?*

**Sampson**

**Barak was helped by two women whereas Sampson was betrayed by two women. (His wife and Delilah)**

**Sampson believed God and responded by faith.**

**Jdg 13:5** *For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.*

**Jdg 13:22-25** *And Manoah said unto his wife, We shall surely die, because we have seen God. 23 But his wife said unto him, If the LORD were pleased to kill us, he would not have received a burnt offering and a meat offering at our*

*hands, neither would he have shewed us all these things, nor would as at this time have told us such things as these. 24 And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him. 25 And the Spirit of the LORD began to move him at times in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.*

**Sampson believed God. He obeyed by faith. He began to deliver the children of Israel.**

**His parents knew his purpose as they had been visited by an angel of God. Sampson believed their words.**

**Three times we read that the Spirit of the Lord came upon Sampson.**

**Jdg 14:6** *And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done.*

**Jdg 14:19** *And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon, and slew thirty men of them, and took their spoil, and gave change of garments unto them which expounded the riddle. And his anger was kindled, and he went up to his father's house.*

**Jdg 15:14** *And when he came unto Lehi, the Philistines shouted against him: and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and the cords that were upon his arms became as flax that was burnt with fire, and his hands loosed from off his hands.*

**The Lord had departed from him.**

**Jdg 16:20** *And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him.*

**Jdg 16:22** *Howbeit the hair of his head began to grow again after he was shaven.*

**Jdg 16:29-30** *And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood, and on which it was borne up, of the one with his right hand, and of the other with his left. 30 And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life.*

**Jephthah – A man of valour**

**Jdg 11:1** *Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty man of valour, and he was the son of an harlot: and Gilead begat Jephthah.*

**He feared God!**

**Jdg 11:11** *Then Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head and captain over them: and Jephthah uttered all his words before the LORD in Mizpeh.*

**Jdg 11:29** *Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah, and he passed over Gilead, and Manasseh, and passed over Mizpeh of Gilead, and from Mizpeh of Gilead he passed over unto the children of Ammon.*

**Jephthah believed the Word of God**

**Like Moses Jephthah spoke unadvisedly.**

**Jdg 11:39** *And it came to pass at the end of two months, that she returned unto her father, who did with her according to his vow which he had vowed: and she knew no man. And it was a custom in Israel,*

**CONCL – We see the examples of faithful men who acted upon the Word of God. Let us obey the Word of God and live by faith.**