

THESE ALL DIED IN FAITH

HEBREWS 11:23 • TV094B

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Hebrews 11:13

“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.”

Here’s my subject today: **“THESE ALL DIED IN FAITH.”**

And here’s my text found in **Hebrews 11:13**: *“These all died in faith not having received the promises but having seen them afar off and were persuaded of them and embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.”*

First of all: Now, this is one of those short texts: *“These all died in faith”*

But it is rich in meaning. It says so much in just a few words, *“these all died in faith.”* In other words, salvation was certain, their salvation was absolutely sure.

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Secondly: They knew and walked with God; by faith men walk with God. Those who believe have God and know God and walk with God. And this is certain of these men, if they died in faith, they walked with God.

Thirdly: Their deaths were blessed and peaceful! If a man dies in faith he dies peacefully. He dies in a blessed fashion. One old writer said this;

**“Let me die the death of the righteous
And let my latter end be like his,
How blessed it is to die in faith
How peaceful, how sweet it is
To cross the Jordan in peace, in faith.”**

So, we know that.

Then, we know their resurrection is assured for Christ said: *“He that believeth on me though he were dead, yet shall he live.”* So, by faith men live. They are raised and they are resurrected. So, if they died in faith their resurrection is absolutely certain.

Fourthly: Their eternal glory is secure. *“For he that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life.”* Do you see how important this very brief statement is? And nothing, nothing better can be said of any man than to say he died in faith. *“These all died in faith.”*

Then, do you know who this verse is talking about: *“These all died in faith?”* We are talking about Abel, Enoch, Noah and Abraham. These are the men we are talking about.

Now, think what could have been said about these men. Think of the volume that it would take to record the lives and the adventures and the times and the works of these men. Think how long it would take.

Enoch lived 365 years. *“Enoch walked with God.”* Enoch was the first man who ever went to heaven without dying. He was the seventh man from Adam; that’s Enoch we are talking about here.

And Abel; Abel was the first martyr. Abel was the first man to die. Abel was the second son born to Adam and Eve. Abel was born to Adam and Eve after they had just come out of the Garden of Eden. Now think what could have been written about these men.

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Then Noah; Noah lived 965 years; Noah was the man to whom God spoke to and gave him a direct revelation and a blueprint for an ark which he was to build with his three sons. And he spent 120 years building that ark and then by the miraculous grace of God he was delivered from the flood that destroyed every living thing.

Think about this now; this man Noah lived 965 years. Think what could have been written about him now. Think of the volumes; you could fill a library just with books about his life and what he knew, heard, said, and so-forth.

And then Abraham; Abraham lived 175 years. He was called "*the friend of God.*" God spoke to Abraham face to face as a man speaks with his friend. Abraham was the father of the Jewish nation.

Abraham was a man whom God called out and said: "*I'll multiply your seed and they will be as the stars of the heavens. And I will bless you and bless every nation through you. And I will bless them that bless you and curse them that curse you.*"

Now, think about what could have been written about these men. What could have been recorded about their works and their deeds and their adventures, and yet, their lives are summed up in one word faith; "*these all died in faith.*"

You couldn't say anything better. You couldn't sum up a man's life in a better fashion, or in a more profitable word, than they died in faith; "*these all died in faith.*" Isn't that a great verse?

This must be our great concern, this must be my all-important concern and the concern of my heart is to die in the faith of Jesus Christ. I must, I must have saving faith. "*Without faith it's impossible to please God. He that cometh to God must believe.*" I've got to have saving faith.

I've got to have living faith, not a dead faith. James says, "That dead faith won't save. Faith without works and faith without holiness, and faith without heart is dead and it's like a body without a soul" and that faith can't save. I've got to have living faith.

I've got to persevering faith. I've got to continue in the faith. It's not a faith that I have today and lose tomorrow and pick up six weeks from now and lose it again. That's not living faith or persevering faith or saving faith.

And if I have this saving faith and this living faith and this persevering faith I'll have dying faith too. "*These all died in faith.*"

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I want faith like Abel, to offer unto God a more excellent sacrifice, the blood of Christ that makes the sinner whole. Abel's faith was in the lamb; it was in the substitute. Abel's faith and confidence was in God's atonement: *"It's the blood that maketh atonement for the soul."*

God almighty said: *"Without the shedding of blood there's no remission."* That's where Abel's faith was and that's where mine must be. I want that faith like Enoch, to walk with God, to walk with the King, to walk with the living God, don't you?

The song writer said:

**"He walks with me
And he talks with me
Along life's narrow way
And the joys we share
As we tarry there
None other has ever known."**

I want to walk with God. I don't want to just hear about God and read about God I want to walk with God.

And I want like Noah to believe God and be delivered from the wrath of God, to enter in by the door, Christ Jesus. It says: *"Noah entered into the ark by the door and God shut the door and preserved him."*

I want to enter in. Christ said: *"I'm the door; by me, if any man enter in, he shall be saved."* I want willingly and lovingly to enter in by the door Christ Jesus. Noah did and God delivered him from wrath and judgment, from the storm that destroyed this world.

Then, I want like Abraham to believe God, no matter where, no matter how, no matter what, and no matter why, to believe God.

The song writer summed it up like this:

**"Faith hath an overcoming power
It will triumph in your dying hour,
Christ is my life, my hope, my grace
And no one can make me fall
From this blessed place in Christ."**

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Now, with your patience and with your permission I'd like to go back to my text in **Hebrews chapter 11:13** that says: "*These all died in faith.*" I don't want to make a play on words or weary you with words but I want to talk about each word; there are five words, "*these all died in faith.*" I'm going to talk about each one for just a few moments.

And the first word is "*these.*" Now, I as I said before; we are not talking about all men. We are not talking about all men for all men do not die in faith; we are talking about believers. We are talking about those who trusted God and those who walked with God, Abel, Enoch, Noah, and Abraham.

Many men die in their sins. They don't die in faith; they die in unbelief. They die in rebellion. They die in their sins. This is a dreadful thought.

Our Lord said in **John 8:24**: "*I said therefore unto you; ye shall die in your sins and if you believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.*" What a terrible thought. What a wretched thought to die in my sin.

These men didn't die in their sins. They didn't die in unbelief. They didn't die in uncertainty; they died in faith. These, all of them, died in faith.

Now, there are many distinctions among men which God pays no attention to at all. We have old and young. We have rich and poor. We have black and white. We have learned and ignorant. We have male and female. We have Jew and Gentile and all these men in distinction.

There are thousands of them that are important to men but they are not important to God at all for God says: "*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there's neither bond or free. There's neither male nor female; you are all one in Christ.*"

But there is a distinction to which men pay very little attention, but God pays a whole lot of attention to it and that is this distinction, those who believe and those who do not believe.

Our Lord told his disciples; He said: "*Now, you go into all the world and you preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved but he that believeth not shall be damned.*" That's the distinction.

They tell me that when the old Titanic left the shores of the port on which it departed there were all kinds of people on board. There were all classes. There were rich people and poor people. There were old people and young people. There were educated people and folks who couldn't

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even write their names. There were black people and white people. And there were leaders and followers.

But, when that old ship went down and the report was posted back at the port there were only two classes, saved and lost, that's all, just saved and lost.

And really and truly; I know pride fills a lot of hearts. *"Pride goeth before destruction and the haughty spirit before the fall."* Pride is the granddaddy of all sin. I know folks just won't let it die.

They won't let it lie down and be buried but there are no distinctions that amount to a hill of beans but one; do you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and believing, do you have life through his name?

These, that's all, Abraham, Abel, Enoch, Noah, *"these;"* here are men that their lives spanned the time of 1,500 years and yet God just says *"these."*

But believers are in a class by themselves and the Holy Spirit singles them out from among men. And the Holy Spirit speaks to them altogether as these men, these brethren, these jewels, these children, these stones, *"these."*

These are the people that believe God created the world, by the Word of his power. There's one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three in one, who created all things by the Word of His power.

These believed; these all believed that *"through one man sin entered this world and death by sin and so death passed upon all men for all have sinned."* *"In Adam we died and in Christ we are made alive."* These believed that they have sinned and come short of God's glory, these believed.

And these also believe that God almighty's plenteous in mercy and God has determined by His grace and His mercy to redeem a people through Jesus Christ, through the merits and righteousness and blood of His own Son.

Yes sir; they believe that! They believe there's hope and that hope is in Christ. They believe there's mercy and that mercy is in Christ. And they believe there's grace, and that grace is in Christ. They believe there's life eternal and that life's in Christ.

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Yes there's forgiveness. *"Is there forgiveness with God?"* Yes there's forgiveness with God. It's in Christ. These believe that. These believe that all who receive Christ receive mercy that *"they are a chosen generation and a royal priesthood and a holy nation and a peculiar people."*

The second word is *"all," "these all,"* without exception. My friend; in this matter of salvation, when it comes to acceptance with God there are no exceptions, all are redeemed by Christ and Christ alone; whether it be Moses or Matthew. Moses lived in that old dispensation and Matthew in the days of Christ but they are saved the same way. Christ said: *"Moses wrote of me."*

Moses wasn't saved by keeping the law because Moses did not perfectly keep the law. Moses was saved by believing on Him who did keep the law; that's Christ. *"Moses wrote of me,"* Christ said.

Abraham was not saved because he was circumcised or because he was the father of a great nation; he was saved because Christ loved him and died for his sins. *"Abraham saw my day and was glad."*

Abraham was saved the same way that Apollos was saved and Joshua was saved the same way that John was saved. Christ said: *"I am the way, the truth, and the life, and no man, (no man, whatever his dispensation, whatever his generation) no man cometh to the Father but by me."*

"There's none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved" except the name of Christ. "Other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, Christ the Lord."

"These all died in faith;" not in works, in faith. They had one common fall: *"In Adam all men die."* They had one common fault, they were all sinners; that's right.

Noah failed miserably. Abraham and David failed miserably. In every dispensation the creature has fallen. You go back to the angels in heaven and they rebelled and Adam in the perfect garden, Noah after the flood, and Abraham under the direct guidance of God.

David, as the most powerful king, Solomon the wisest man, these all, they all had one common fall and one common fault, and they had one common faith; *"This is the record; God hath given us eternal life and this life's in his Son. He that hath the Son of God hath life. He that hath not the Son of God hath not life."*

You see, the people before the cross were redeemed looking to the cross. These animal sacrifices that they brought and that were slain on these Jewish altars on the Days of Atonement; they didn't put away sin.

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Paul wrote in **Hebrews 10:4**, “*It is not impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to put away sin.*” These are pictures and types and symbols that point to the cross. These things are patterns that teach us about Him who is to come.

And these men died believing that the one who fulfilled these things would come and be their Saviour. And on this side of the cross we believe and we are saved by looking back to what Christ did. Do you see what I am saying?

We all have one common fall and that’s in Adam, one common fault, that’s sin and one common faith, that’s Christ and one common Mediator. Now, if Christ is not Moses’ Mediator then he can’t come to God for “*there’s one God and one mediator between God and men;*” it’s Christ. It’s not Aaron; it’s Christ. It’s not Mary; it’s Christ.

And then we have one common hope; “*Behold what manner of love the father hath bestowed on us that we should be called the sons of God. It doth not yet appear what we shall be (but this we know); when he shall appear we shall see him and be like him.*”

“*And he that hath this hope in him purifieth himself.*” What hope? There’s just one hope; we are going to be like Christ.

And then we all have one common goal and that’s what we want to be; we want to be like Christ.

So, these, all believers, all of them without exception: “*these all died.*” Now this is a word that we need to dwell on for a few moments and we need to think about. Although they had faith they still died.

Faith is not going to deliver you from death, not the death of the body. It will deliver you from eternal death. It will deliver you from the death of the soul but it won’t deliver you from the death of the body.

Although these men were believers they died. Although they walked with God they died. Although they believed they died. Although they had faith they died.

King Saul died but so did king David “*a man after God’s own heart.*” Judas died but so did John who leaned on God’s breast at the Last Supper. All men die: “*It’s appointed unto men once to die.*” Faith does not keep a man from dying.

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There are thousands of people making so much money today preying on poor, helpless, folks on this matter of healing. We call it the “Health and Wealth” religion of today. Preachers are preaching that if you have faith you can have perfect health and if you have faith you can have perfect finances.

That’s not so; there’s not a word of truth in that. It may be God’s will for you to prosper. It may be God’s will for you to be poor. It may be God’s will for you to be healthy. It may be God’s will for you to be sick.

If God healed everybody nobody would die. *“In this world ye shall have tribulation.”* In this world ye shall have trial. In this world ye shall have sickness. In this world you are going to die! The young die, the old die. Little people die and big people die. All men die; *“It’s appointed unto men once to die.”*

And these men; they had faith. These all had faith but they died. And they didn’t live the same length of time. Noah lived 965 years. Abraham didn’t live but 175. That was a short life in his day.

Abel; I don’t know how long Abel lived. Abel must have died as a young man; he was never married and never had a family. He belonged to God. He was one of God’s own. And he was murdered. He was murdered by his brother.

Where was God? Somebody said: “Where was God when my son died, preacher?” He was in the same place when His Son died, on the throne. *“God worketh all things after the council of his own will.”*

Let me tell you this, *“Ask and ye shall receive. Seek and you shall find. Knock and it shall be opened.”* When you are sick pray for the sick; we are told in God’s Word in the Book of James: *“If anybody’s sick; call upon the elders of the church and let them pray over him and anoint him with oil.”* The oil represents the Holy Spirit. Pray for us!

My friend; bow to the will of God. It may not be God’s will to heal that person. I’ve seen God heal some people and I’ve seen God not heal folks. It doesn’t mean that people didn’t have faith because God didn’t heal them. That’s not why God didn’t heal them. God was pleased to take them home.

There are always folks ready to make a living on religion. There’s money in religion. If you’ve got a little of enough conscience and if you’re a big enough thief, and if you are willing to make

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merchandise of the souls of men and if you are willing to damn your own soul; yes, you can make a killing on religion like many folks are doing today.

May God have mercy on false preachers, but He won't. The only thing that preachers need to say is this, "that God heals; all healing is of God."

But these men had faith and they died and Abel died young and Noah died old. And Abraham died in the middle of his life. Enoch didn't die at all; he just walked right on in to heaven. God's sovereign: "*Even so Father it seemed good in thy sight.*"

Well, let's move on. Death for the believer is not a penalty, it's a promotion. Death for the believer is not the end; it's the beginning. Death for the believer is not loss; it's gain. Death for the believer is not sorrow; it's joy. "*We sorrow not as those who have no hope;*" our hope is Christ.

And I, I'll tell you this my friend, I would like to be in company of these men; wouldn't you, Abel, Noah, Enoch, Abraham and me? Wouldn't that be great? "*But they died.*"

And here's the fourth word "*in faith.*"

Faith's not a creed; it's an experience. Faith's not a doctrine; it's a heart condition. That's right; faith is in me. "*God revealed His Son in me.*" These men died in faith, out of self, in Christ, in faith and in hope.

They had faith before they died. That's right; they had faith before they died. Their faith was a living faith. They didn't get this faith on their deathbed. They had this faith in life.

Now, somebody, I know, there's an illustration in the Bible of a man who was saved just before he died. But remember this; there's only one, there's only one man in the Bible that was saved just before he died in order that no one may despair but there's only one in order that no one may presume.

These men had this faith throughout their lives. These men persevered in this faith. They persevered until they died. They continued in the faith. They walked with God by faith. They held on to this faith and they didn't deny this faith.

And then they never got beyond faith; they died in faith. They died where they started. The Bible says four times "*that the just shall live by faith.*" That's how we start living spiritually by

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faith. That's how we live by faith and that's how we live eternally by faith. We never get beyond faith.

It's not faith perfected by works, faith perfected by deeds; its faith perfected in Christ. People who get beyond faith are like the fellow that climbed the ladder and climbed so high that he started down the other side.

Christ is as high as you can go. Faith is high as you can go. That's it; when you have faith you have everything. When you have faith in Christ you have everything.

**“At the cross where I first saw the light
And the burden of my heart rolled away,
It's there by faith I received my sight
And now I am happy all the day.”**

“The just shall live by faith.” These men died in faith. They never got beyond faith. Noah was 965 years old and he still died in faith resting in God and believing God. Abraham was 175 years old and he died in faith. Let me give you three things:

Faith has one foundation and it is the Word of God. That's it, not feeling, not experience, but the Word of God: *“Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.”* That's the only foundation of faith. *“What God's promised he is able to perform.”*

Faith has one object and that's Christ, who He is, what He did, and where He is now. The one object of faith is Christ. We don't put faith in preachers and faith in doctrines but faith in Christ.

And then faith has one goal, His glory: *“That in the ages to come he might show forth the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.”* God saved us to the praise of his glory!