Crossroads International Church Dr. Rick Griffith

12 April 2015 Message 9 of 12

NLT 40 Minutes

**Models of Endurance**

Title

***Hebrews 11:1–12:3***

**Topic:** Perseverance

**Main Idea:** Imitate the confidence of those who endured before you.

**Theme:** The way we wait by faith (for God to act)

**Thrust:** is by imitating those who persevered before us.

**Purpose:** The listeners will gain strength to persevere in faith in a trying area of their lives.

**Meditation:** Hebrews 11:6

**Reading:** Hebrews 12:1-3

**Song:** “By Faith” by Keith Getty (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXB8ihepUpE)

# Introduction

Red   
Bench

### Interest: Waiting. We all wait. None of us has seen God do all that we trust him for.

Marriage

#### Some of us are waiting to get married.

#### Some of us are waiting for clear direction from God on where we should work.

Line

#### We wait upon God to overcome difficulties at work from being a Christian.

Work  
(3 slides)

#### Others wait for a baby.

Baby

#### Still others among us wait for our parents to trust Christ—or for our children to embrace Jesus wholeheartedly.

Still…

Parents Tomb

#### Others are waiting on God for something else that is really important.

### Need: What are *you* waiting for?

What you wait?

#### Tell the person next to you what you are waiting for—if you feel comfortable to do so.

Subject

#### Waiting isn’t bad. Waiting is good.

#### For one, it teaches us patience. But…

### Subject: How can you wait in faith (for God to act)? How do you *endure*—not give up?

### Background: The suffering Hebrew readers were tempted to give up their faith by returning to Judaism.

Bkgrd

#### They had waited for relatives to trust Christ—yet most still hadn’t believed.

#### In fact, things got worse and they suffered for their faith.

### Text: Hebrews 11:1–12:3 tells them—and us—how to wait. Waiting comes by faith!

Text

### Preview: Our Hall of Fame celebrates great athletes. But today we will see our Hall of Faith. Our text today has three movements that show three ways to wait in faith: the key *principle* (11:1-3) followed by *heroes* (11:4-40) followed by our *ultimate* example (12:1-3).

Fame  
• Faith

Principle  
• Hero • Ult

(How can you wait in faith? We first will see our key principle of waiting in faith…)

# I. Faith sees an unseen hope (11:1-3).

MP

[Trust obeys with confidence in God’s future blessings.]

## Definition: Faith sees the unseen (11:1).

1

## Result: Faith gains approval by God and man (11:2).

MP

MPI

2

3

## Extent: Faith trusts that God is Creator of all things from nothing (11:3).

(How can you wait in faith? Faith sees an unseen hope. Now the theoretical principle gets practical with many *examples*. IN the rest of the chapter we are exhorted to…)

# II. Imitate OT saints that persevered (11:4-40).

[Mimic OT heroes who endured despite not seeing God fulfill his promises.]

## Pre-patriarchal people acted with certainty on an unseen hope (11:4-7).

Pre-Patriarch

Patriarchs

### Abel was rewarded for his faith in sacrifice (11:4).

4

5

6

### Enoch didn’t even die since he pleased God (11:5).

### God is never pleased apart from our faith (11:6).

### Noah distinguished and saved himself by building a boat (11:7).

## The patriarchs acted with certainty on an unseen hope (11:8-22).

### Abraham blessed his family with unfulfilled but sure hope (11:8-19).

12

15-16

19

9

8

#### Abraham influenced his son and grandson to trust God (11:8-10).

#### Sarah trusted God to make a nation from her (11:11-12).

10

11

#### People of faith have always persevered based on their future hope (11:13-16).

13-14

17-18

#### Abraham offered Isaac up with faith in God’s promise of a nation (11:17-19).

### Isaac promised future blessings for his sons (11:20).

20

### Jacob blessed his sons in faith before he died (11:21).

21

### Joseph requested burial in Canaan by faith (11:22).

22

## Moses and the conquest generation acted with certainty on an unseen hope (11:23-31).

Moses

23

29

30

Many Generations

### Moses had a model of faith in his parents who defied the Pharaoh (11:23).

### Moses chose wilderness wandering over palace pleasures (11:24-28).

28

24-26

27

### Moses and Israelites both trusted God to lead them through the Red Sea (11:29).

### Israel conquered Jericho by marching, not fighting (11:30).

### Rahab spared her life by faith in God rather than disobey with Jericho (11:31).

## People of many generations acted with certainty on an unseen hope (11:32-38).

32

33

35

34

### Many OT saints experienced *deliverance* by faith (11:32-35).

37b

38

37a

36

### Other OT saints experienced *suffering* by faith (11:36-38).

## Summary: OT saints won’t be rewarded until we’re rewarded (11:39-40).

39-40

### The faith of OT saints was never fully rewarded in this life (11:39).

### Their delayed reward allows us to be rewarded with them (11:40).

## I have had models of endurance in my own life. Haven’t you?

### My mentor, Dr. Stanley Toussaint, taught at Dallas Seminary 50 years!

### My teacher, Dr. Howard Hendricks, taught their 60 years!

### My doctoral examiner, J. Dwight Pentecost, taught there 65 years! He kept teaching until he died in 2014 at age 96.

Subject

Press On

(How can you wait in faith? Actually, I struggled with whether to call this passage one of waiting, though each person did wait for the promise of God and never saw it fulfilled at death. But is waiting to be contrasted with running? After all, the overall theme of Hebrews is to press on! This section ends with a specific exhortation…)

MP

# III. Run in the footsteps of Jesus who ran before you (12:1-3).

1a

Endure

12:1-2

[Mimic the perseverance that Christ showed.]

## Endure your situation (“run”) by focusing on Christ’s example of endurance (12:1-2).

1d

### Realize that you are not alone (12:1a).

### Trim down your life (12:1b-c).

1b-c

#### Rid yourself of anything weighing you down (12:1b).

##### When I was on the track team and in wrestling, I wore ankle weights in practice. When the actual meet came, I took them off and felt like I could run like the wind!

##### We all have weights—things that are not sin but they still weigh us down—like a sport that tires us too much, too much time of facebook, etc. These are OK, but they must be thrown off if they weigh us down.

#### Rid yourself especially of the sin of unbelief (12:1c).

### Run the right race with endurance (12:1d).

### Focus on how God rewarded Christ’s endurance (12:2).

2

#### Jesus leads us in our faith (12:2a).

#### Jesus completes our faith (12:2b).

#### Jesus saw faith’s joyful reward (12:2c).

#### Jesus endured the shame of the cross (12:2d).

#### Jesus experienced faith’s reward of honor (12:2e).

## Think about (“consider”) Christ overcoming hostility so you will persevere (12:3).

3

### Consider how much hostility Jesus endured (12:3a).

### Then you won’t become weary and give up (12:3b).

(How can you wait in faith?)

Subject

# Conclusion

### Run while you wait—just like those before you (MI).

MI

### Main Points: We have seen three ways to wait in faith:

MPI

MPII

MPIII

#### Faith sees an unseen hope (11:1-3).

#### Imitate OT saints that persevered (11:4-40).

#### Run in the footsteps of Jesus who ran before you (12:1-3).

### How can you run while you wait?

How?

#### Realize that you are not alone (12:1a).

#### Trim down your life (12:1b-c).

##### Toss aside anything weighing you down (12:1b).

##### Throw away the sin of unbelief (12:1c).

#### Run the right race with endurance (12:1d).

#### Focus on how God rewarded Christ’s endurance (12:2).

Prayer

### Prayer

### “By Faith” by Keith Getty (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXB8ihepUpE)

# Preliminary Questions

**Verses Questions**

# Context: What did the author record just prior to this passage?

### In Hebrews 10, he told them some benefits of believing in Christ’s resurrection—that Jesus was the living High Priest who motivates us to wait upon his power and timing.

### In other words, Christ’s resurrection motivates us to press on.

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

### At our core, none of us are really theoretical people. We need *examples* in order for us to grasp concepts and ideas.

### This is why the Bible is not a list of principles. Rather, it is an historical account of numerous people of God who saw God work in their lives.

### Today’s chapter will give us the most extensive account of models of endurance that we find in Scripture.

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

### The readers were facing persecution that tempted them to revert to Judaism.

### What they needed to see was that they were the latest examples in a long train of people of faith who needed to endure.

# Questions

### Where is the end of this section?

#### 12:2 NAU, BKC

#### 12:3 NIV, KJV, UBS focuses on Christ

#### 12:3 NLT sets 12:5-12 apart as discipline section

### What is the focus of these verses?

#### Is it faith?

#### Is it faithfulness?

#### Is it endurance?

### What does 11:40 mean: “For God had something better in mind for us, so that they would not reach perfection without us”?

# Tentative Subject/Complement Statements

Text

# Possible Illustrations

### Text

# Possible Applications

### Exhortation: How can you better run while you wait in faith? Surrender! (Adapted from Swindoll, *So You Want to Be Like Christ?*)

#### Surrender your possessions: Trim down your life (12:1b-c).

#### Surrender your position.

#### Surrender your plans.

#### Surrender your people.

## Others who faithfully endured should encourage the persecuted readers to see that their perseverance also must precede their reward (11:1–12:3).

### OT saints persevered before seeing God fulfill his promises just as the readers must endure before receiving all God promised (Ch. 11).

### Jesus on the cross is the best example of endurance and reward to help the readers focus on Christ to continue being faithful (12:1-3).

**Models of Endurance**

***Hebrews 11:1–12:3***

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

# *Exegetical Idea*: The way to persevere is to imitate the faithful endurance of those who have gone before us (11:1–12:3).

# I. Prologue: The definition of faith in all generations (especially OT times) is to act with certainty on an unseen hope (11:1-3).

## Definition: Faith sees the unseen (11:1).

## Result: Faith gains approval by God and man (11:2).

## Extent: Faith trusts that God is Creator of all things from nothing (11:3).

# II. Examples: The way to persevere in faith is to imitate the faith of people in OT times who acted with certainty on an unseen hope (11:4-40).

## Pre-patriarchal people acted with certainty on an unseen hope (11:4-7).

### Abel was rewarded for his faith in sacrifice (11:4).

### Enoch didn’t even die since he pleased God (11:5).

### God is never pleased apart from our faith (11:6).

### Noah distinguished and saved himself by building a boat (11:7).

## The patriarchs acted with certainty on an unseen hope (11:8-22).

### Abraham blessed his family with unfulfilled but sure hope (11:8-19).

#### Abraham influenced his son and grandson to trust God (11:8-10).

#### Sarah trusted God to make a nation from her (11:11-12).

#### People of faith have always persevered based on their future hope (11:13-16).

#### Abraham offered Isaac up with faith in God’s promise of a nation (11:17-19).

### Isaac promised future blessings for his sons (11:20).

### Jacob blessed his sons in faith before he died (11:21).

### Joseph requested burial in Canaan by faith (11:22).

## Moses and the conquest generation acted with certainty on an unseen hope (11:23-31).

### Moses had a model of faith in his parents who defied the Pharaoh (11:23).

### Moses chose wilderness wandering over palace pleasures (11:24-28).

### Moses and Israelites both trusted God to lead them through the Red Sea (11:29).

### Israel conquered Jericho by marching, not fighting (11:30).

### Rahab spared her life by faith in God rather than disobey with Jericho (11:31).

## People of many generations acted with certainty on an unseen hope (11:32-38).

### Many OT saints experienced *deliverance* by faith (11:32-35).

### Other OT saints experienced *suffering* by faith (11:36-38).

## Summary: OT saints won’t be rewarded until we’re rewarded (11:39-40).

### The faith of OT saints was never fully rewarded in this life (11:39).

### Their delayed reward allows us to be rewarded with them (11:40).

# III. Exhortation: The way to persevere in faith is to imitate the endurance of Jesus (12:1-3).

## Endure your situation (“run”) by focusing on Christ’s example of endurance (12:1-2)

### Realize that you are not alone (12:1a).

### Trim down your life (12:1b-c).

#### Rid yourself of anything weighing you down (12:1b).

#### Rid yourself especially of the sin of unbelief (12:1c).

### Run the right race with endurance (12:1d).

### Focus on how God rewarded Christ’s endurance (12:2).

#### Jesus leads us in our faith (12:2a).

#### Jesus completes our faith (12:2b).

#### Jesus saw faith’s joyful reward (12:2c).

#### Jesus endured the shame of the cross (12:2d).

#### Jesus experienced faith’s reward of honor (12:2e).

## Think about (“consider”) Christ overcoming hostility so you will persevere (12:3).

### Consider how much hostility Jesus endured (12:3a).

### Then you won’t become weary and give up (12:3b).

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners will gain strength to persevere in faith in a trying area of their lives

**Homiletical Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)

# Introduction

### Interest: We all need to wait.

### Need: What are *you* waiting for?

### Subject: How can you wait in faith (for God to act)? How do you *endure*—not give up?

### Background: The suffering Hebrew readers were tempted to give up their faith by returning to Judaism. They were waiting but doing so indecisively.

### Text: Hebrews 11:1–12:3 tells them—and us—how to wait. Waiting comes by faith!

### Preview: Our text today has three movements that show three ways to wait in faith: the key *principle* (11:1-3) followed by *examples* (11:4-40) followed by our *ultimate* model (12:1-3).

### Transition: The first movement tells us that…

# I. Faith sees an unseen hope (11:1-3).

## Definition: Faith sees the unseen (11:1).

## Result: Faith gains approval by God and man (11:2).

## Extent: Faith trusts that God is Creator of all things from nothing (11:3).

# II. Imitate OT saints that persevered (11:4-40).

## Pre-patriarchal people acted with certainty on an unseen hope (11:4-7).

## The patriarchs acted with certainty on an unseen hope (11:8-22).

## Moses and the conquest generation acted with certainty on an unseen hope (11:23-31).

## People of many generations acted with certainty on an unseen hope (11:32-38).

## Summary: OT saints won’t be rewarded until we’re rewarded (11:39-40).

# III. Run in the footsteps of Jesus who ran before you (12:1-3).

## Endure your situation (“run”) by focusing on Christ’s example of endurance (12:1-2)

### Realize that you are not alone (12:1a).

### Trim down your life (12:1b-c).

#### Rid yourself of anything weighing you down (12:1b).

#### Rid yourself especially of the sin of unbelief (12:1c).

### Run the right race with endurance (12:1d).

### Focus on how God rewarded Christ’s endurance (12:2).

#### Jesus leads us in our faith (12:2a).

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#### Jesus experienced faith’s reward of honor (12:2e).

## Think about (“consider”) Christ overcoming hostility so you will persevere (12:3).

### Consider how much hostility Jesus endured (12:3a).

### Then you won’t become weary and give up (12:3b).

(How can you wait in faith?)

# Conclusion

### Run while you wait—just like those before you (MI).

### Main Points: We have seen three ways to wait in faith:

#### Faith sees an unseen hope (11:1-3).

#### Imitate OT saints that persevered (11:4-40).

#### Run in the footsteps of Jesus who ran before you (12:1-3).

### How can you run while you wait?

#### Realize that you are not alone (12:1a).

#### Trim down your life (12:1b-c).

##### Toss aside anything weighing you down (12:1b).

##### Throw away the sin of unbelief (12:1c).

#### Run the right race with endurance (12:1d).

#### Focus on how God rewarded Christ’s endurance (12:2).

### Prayer



**Rick Griffith**

12 April 2015

Message 9 of 12

**Models of Endurance**

***Hebrews 11:1–12:3***

# Introduction

### We all need to wait.

### What are *you* waiting for?

### How can you wait in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

### The suffering Hebrew readers were so tired of waiting that they were tempted to give up their faith by returning to Judaism.

# I. Faith \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ an unseen hope (11:1-3).

## Definition: Faith sees the unseen (11:1).

## Result: Faith gains approval by God and man (11:2).

## Extent: Faith trusts that God is Creator of all things from nothing (11:3).

# II. Imitate OT \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that persevered (11:4-40).

## Pre-patriarchal people acted with certainty on an unseen hope (11:4-7).

## The patriarchs acted with certainty on an unseen hope (11:8-22).

## Moses and the conquest generation acted with certainty on an unseen hope (11:23-31).

## People of many generations acted with certainty on an unseen hope (11:32-38).

## Summary: OT saints won’t be rewarded until we’re rewarded (11:39-40).

# III. Run in the footsteps of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who ran before you (12:1-3).

## Endure your situation (“run”) by focusing on Christ’s example of endurance (12:1-2)

### Realize that you are not alone (12:1a).

### Trim down your life (12:1b-c).

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### Focus on how God rewarded Christ’s endurance (12:2).

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#### Jesus saw faith’s joyful reward (12:2c).

#### Jesus endured the shame of the cross (12:2d).

#### Jesus experienced faith’s reward of honor (12:2e).

## Think about (“consider”) Christ overcoming hostility so you will persevere (12:3).

### Consider how much hostility Jesus endured (12:3a).

### Then you won’t become weary and give up (12:3b).

# Conclusion

### \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ while you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ —just like those before you (Main Idea).

### How can you run while you wait?

**Thought Questions**

1. Read the passage aloud. List the OT saints that struck you the most and the specific challenges they overcame:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Person** | **Challenge** |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
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1. What does Hebrews 11:6 mean in your own words? How does it apply to you now?

Text

1. What does it mean to “focus on Jesus” (12:2)? Share an example of what it looks like.

Text