

## What is a Champion?

**Text:** (1 Chron 19:13) *Be of good courage, and let us behave ourselves valiantly for our people, and for the cities of our God: and let the LORD do that which is good in his sight.*

This World to day has so many people that are held up as Stars, Idols, Sports Superstars.

***But we do not have enough Hero's, or Champions.***

## What is a Champion?

1. A man who **undertakes** a combat.
2. A man who **fights** for a cause.
3. A **hero**; a **brave warrior**.

**INTREP'ID**, not trembling or shaking with fear; hence, **fearless; bold; brave; undaunted**; as an intrepid soldier. resolute.

***What does it mean to be one of God's Champions?***

## God uses Ordinary People: (1 Cor 1:26-29)

(1 Chron 19:13) seems to be the best description.

Ordinary People,

Having Courage,

Behaving Themselves Valiantly,

Trusting God to do what is good in His sight.

**How did the Ordinary people, become Extraordinary?**

## Knowledge of God: (Phil 3:10)

Knowing God Personally , Which Brings Courage.

## They had Faith in God:

**Faith** - Plain & simple. My Level of Confidence. Faith is Trusting God *to do what is good in His sight.*  
**We see this in (Heb 10:38)** (Rom 1:17) (Gal 3:11)  
3 Times - in Scripture: All 3 are Quoting (Hab 2:4)

God is telling Habakkuk, How to live in an uncertain time, is by Faith.

God lists these Champions in (Heb 11) as a way to Illustrate this concept of Living By Faith!

We'll look at these Champions in the coming weeks.

## ***What Does It Mean: The Just Shall Live By Faith?***

**Worry** is a lack of faith.

**Worry** is a mild form of Atheism.

**Worry** is Faith turned inside out.

**Faith** is Worry turned inside out.

**Faith** makes God real to you.

**Guilt** is a burden that **Faith** frees us from.

Faith in The blood of Christ has freed us from Guilt.

***Faith is My Acceptance of God's Acceptance of me.***

(Rom 5:1) Justified: I Have *peace with God.*

***What is Disobedience?*** A Lack of Faith.

Do you have trouble Obeying the Word of God?

It is because of a lack of Faith!

You disobey God b/c you don't believe His Word.

(Mal 3:10) There isn't a person here today that doesn't want the abundant blessings of God.

***But not all of you Tithe. - Why not?***

B/c you don't believe this promise to be true.  
If you truly believed that promise to be true, you  
would obey.

Doesn't everyone want the heavens opened & the  
Blessings of God so much that you can't contain it?

Why do we disobey?

Because we don't believe the Word of God!

(Heb 10:38) *The Just shall live by Faith!*

### **I. The Description of Faith:**

**What Faith is not...**

**Faith is NOT Blind Superstition:** Smoke & Mirrors

**Faith is NOT closing your eyes to Reality:**

*Faith is believing what you know to not real, Wrong!*

**Faith is NOT Optimism or Positive Thinking:**

I like optimism as much as the next guy.

***I don't like pessimism.***

*I don't like driving behind the guy who thinks the  
light is going to turn red when he gets there, so  
he drives so slow that it does.*

***I don't like being around negative people.***

*I know people who brighten up a room; by leaving it!*

**Faith is NOT a leap in the Dark:**

In Contrast Faith IS stepping in to the Light!

**Faith is NOT Faith in FAITH:**

(Mark 11:2) *have faith in God!*

*Illus: Some would say, "Just Believe", as if believing  
will make it so. It Will NOT!*

**How did the Ordinary people, become Extraordinary?**

*They let the LORD do that which is good in his sight*

***HOW? They lived by Faith! - What is Faith?***

**The Definition is given in:** (Heb 11:1)

***Substance*** ~ Gk: *Assurance* = Like a Title Deed

It's Confidence that Rests in "HOPE"

Not Perhaps, or a Wish.

Hope ~ Rock Solid Assurance based on Divine Revelation

The 2nd coming of Jesus is referred to as the

"Blessed Hope" (Titus 2:13)

Is the 2nd coming of Jesus a Wish? a Perhaps?

Or is it Pre-written history, you can take to the bank!

Assurance based on the Word of God!

Faith is the Confidence in God, that He will perform

His promises.

***There is no Legitimate Faith w/o Hope!***

***There is No Legitimate Hope w/o Faith.***

***Evidence:*** (Heb 11:1) or a Proof/Conviction!

(John 8:46) *Which of you convinceth me of sin?*

Faith in your heart, is the Conviction of something  
you have not yet seen.

Absolute Confidence that leads to a Conviction.

***Evidence of Things Not Seen!***

***There is an Invisible World:*** YES! REALLY!  
(Col 1:16) *For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, **visible and invisible**, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:*

Faith allows the Believing soul to treat the Future as the Present, and the invisible as seen.

***Besides Substance & Evidence...***

**Faith is a Confession:** Communication from heaven  
(Heb 11:2) *“By it” they received a good report.*

They heard from heaven & Testify of it. Gk:

That God spoke to them.

***Not their Reputation but God’s Revelation to them.***

They were conscience of God Testifying with them.

**Faith Is Not based upon Appearances:** (Heb 11:1)  
*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

***When you live by Faith, you live above SEE level.***

You live above the level of what you can see.

Illus: *The World says: “seeing is believing”.*

(John 20:29) *Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.*

(1 Pet 1:8) *Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:  
**By Faith we see the invisible***

**Faith is not about Feelings:**

***Faith is Confidence***, that goes beyond our Emotions  
***Emotions*** are the shallowest part of our nature  
***Faith*** is the Deepest work of God.

God does not do the Deepest work in the Shallowest part of you.

These Champions of God, didn’t live their life under the terranical rule of their feelings.

Some days you will not always feel good.

Some days you will not always feel Christiany.

**Even Preachers get like this too.**

Maybe I didn’t get any sleep the night before.

Maybe I have a dull headache.

Some Days, The Ushers wont USH,

The choir sounds like 2 Calves dying is hail storm.

I get my Tongue wrapped around my eye teeth & can’t I see what I am saying.

I feel like apologizing on your way out.

*“Good Night, God is no where near this place”* **then** heaven comes down & someone’s life is changed.

And my emotions were no where near in tune with what is going on here.

***Faith is Not about Appearances:***

***Faith is not about my Feelings:***

**Faith is NOT Limited by My Logic:**

Faith is NOT Contrary to my Logic.

Faith is NOT Limited by my Logic.

***Faith just goes Beyond My Logic.***

(John 6:1-) How are we going to feed these people?

Philip gets out his pocket calculator:

*It would take a year's wages to feed this many.*

***Technically, he was right,*** Any Atheist can calculate

Jesus wasn't asking Philip for Information.

(John 6:6) *"this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do."*

Jesus wanted Philip to learn about a miracle.

***Philip left God out of the equation.***

**Faith is NOT Limited by Our Logic:**

Faith Goes Beyond Our Logic.

***I mentioned Tithing.***

Some of you are trying to FIGURE out how to tithe.

You go over your budget.

Add up all the figures & realize you can't do it.

***Did you figure God into the equation?***

We are all a bunch of ZERO's

If you add a "1" to a bunch of Zeros, & you get alot

The Votes are In: ***YOU plus GOD is a MAJORITY!***

**How did the Ordinary people, become Extraordinary?**

How could they have Courage?

How could they do Valiantly?

How could they trust God to do what is good in His sight

**II. What Does a Living by Faith Look Like?:**

**Faith was Their Spiritual Wisdom:** (Heb 11:3)

There are some things you will never understand without Faith.

(Heb 11:3) *"Through Faith we Understand"*

The visible is made out of the Invisible.

***Illus: The Skeptic says: "Prove there is a God!"***

Don't even try!

***The Finite cannot prove the Infinite!***

Ask Them: ***How about you Prove there is No God?***

**He can't!**

He has to believe by faith that there is No God.

***Science is the Study of phenomena that is now existing.***

(Job 38:4) *Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth?*

There were no scientist there.

You were not there.

How do we understand it? **By Faith**

**Some say that is hard to do.**

I believe it takes MORE FAITH to believe that

***Nothing times Nobody equals Everything***

The Bible says that GOD is the Supreme Fact, & the man that denies it is the Supreme Fool.  
(Ps 14:1) *The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.*

Faith is not contrary to My Logic,  
Faith goes beyond My Logic.  
Trying to prove God in the Laboratory is like tearing apart a piano to try to find a TUNE!

**They were Extraordinary Because ...**

***Faith was Their Spiritual Wisdom:***

**Faith was Their Spiritual Worship:**

(Heb 11:6) *But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is,*

Some say, “*God, prove yourself & I will serve you.*”  
Sorry, That’s NOT how FAITH works.

God is not under any Obligation to Explain Himself or prove Himself to you!

***Faith is not a response to Proof!***

That’s what Thomas demanded after the resurrection.

**How did the Ordinary people, become Extraordinary?**

How could they have Courage?

How could they do Valiantly?

How could they trust God to do what is good in His sight

***Faith is the Human Heart’s response to the Character of God!***

***What do think Jesus looked like?***

The pictures show Him fresh out of a beauty salon with His hair all curled a gold dinner plate behind his Head.

If that is how He looked, ***THEN*** why did Judas have to point Him out?

(Is 53:2) *he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.*

He did not come in a Golden chariot, to be born in a Palace, but a Virgin Womb & to a Stable.

***His Miracles were not publicity stunts.***

Often He asked them not to tell anyone about it.

Today. He could Buy us, He could Bribe us, He could rip the roof off this church & shout BOO!

***Faith is Our Heart’s response to the Character of God!***

When your Eye is Right, it Responds to Light.

When your Ear is Right it Responds to Sound.

When you Heart is Right, it Responds to God.

and that Response is Called FAITH!

***Faith is the Heart’s response to God!***

(Heb 3:12) *Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.*

Unbelief does not come from the Head, but the Heart

***Faith was Their Spiritual Worship:***

Faith Honors God, and God Honors Faith.

***Faith was Their Spiritual Wisdom:***

***Faith was Their Spiritual Wealth:***

(Heb 11:6) *A Rewarder that diligently seek Him.*

(Matt 9:29) *be unto you according to your faith!*

Not according to your Fame, Future, Feeling,  
Fortune, Friends, Fate.

Faith is the Medium of Exchange in the Kingdom of  
Heaven.

***If you Pray w/o Faith, you do not Get an answer:***

(Mark 11:24) *Therefore I say unto you, What things  
soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye  
receive them, and ye shall have them.*

(Rom 14:23b) *for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.*

***Pray & Believe, & you will Receive.***

***Pray & Doubt, & you will do Without!***

***God is a Rewarder!***

How Spiritually Strong are you?

How Spiritually Wealthy are you?

What kind of RESERVES do you have?

It is all according to your Faith.

***How did the Ordinary people, become Extraordinary?***

How could they have Courage?

How could they do Valiantly?

How could they trust God to do what is good in His sight

***They Believed by Faith that...,***

a. **God IS:** (Heb 11:6)

b. **God Will:** *Is a Rewarder*

c. **God Wants To:** ***Through Me!***

(Eph 6:10) *be strong in the Lord, and in the power of  
his might.*

(1 Chron 19:13) *Be of good courage, and let us  
behave ourselves valiantly for our people, and for  
the cities of our God: and let the LORD do that  
which is good in his sight.*

***Living by Faith gave them Courage: Because They  
knew God!***

***Living by Faith Motivated them with a Cause for  
Whats Right:***

(1 Sam 17:26) *who is this uncircumcised Philistine,  
that he should defy the armies of the living God*

(1 Sam 17:29) *Is there not a cause!*

***Living by Faith Motivated them to Act upon their  
Faith*** (Heb 11:1) Substance, Evidence

(Confidence, Conviction, Confession)

(Col 3:23-24) *And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily,  
as to the Lord, and not unto men; 24 Knowing that of*

*the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.*

***Living by Faith Motivated them to be Fearless:***

*“let us behave ourselves valiantly” (Ezek 3:4-9)*

**They Died to Self:**

*(Job 13:15) Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him*

***“Not My Call”*** (Job 19:25-27)

*For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: 26 And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: 27 Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.*

*“I Got Nothing to Lose, & Everything to Gain!”*

*“A Man is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain that he can never lose!”*

**Living By Faith gave them the ability to Follow**

**Through:** Rev 2:10, 2 Tim 4:6-8

*(1 Chron 19:13) Be of good courage, and let us behave ourselves valiantly for our people, and for the cities of our God: and let the LORD do that which is good in his sight.*

**Would you like to go from Ordinary, to Extraordinary**

**Would you like to have Courage?**

**Would you like to do Valiantly?**

***Then: trust God to do what is good in His sight***