ENDURING FAITH



Hebrews 11-13

1.	Read Hebrews 11 with lingering intentionality. Sinclair Ferguson says that "these heroes of the faith have two things in common. They looked beyond the present (to things hoped for) and beyond the visible (to the invisible)."		
	a.	Which 3 heroes do you find most encouraging in your present faith struggle? Why?	
	b.	In what aspect of your life are you presently pressed to look "beyond the present and beyond the visible?"	
	C.	If your name followed the phrase, "By faith," what words would you hope to see written as your legacy of faith?	
2.	In certain traditions preachers teach "Prosperity Doctrine" which holds that material prosperity is to be expected as external evidence of God's favor. What do you find in Hebrews 11 that calls that tradition into question?		
3.	abando	nber that the original audience of this book was thinking they would still be faithful if they oned Christ and returned to the same faith of those listed in Hebrews 11. How does the make it clear in this chapter that that is not possible? (verses 13, 39-40)	

4.	Read Hebrews 12:1-3. These verses are not only the conclusion of what was written in chapter 11 but they are the point of the whole book. Consider and share some of the ways that your life would be different if you lived these verses out in the way suggested in this John Piper quote?
	"The race of the Christian life - is not fought well or run well by asking, "what's wrong with this or that?" but by asking, "is it in the way of greater faith and greater love and greater purity and greater courage and greater humility and greater patience and greater self-control? Not; is it a sin? But: Does it help me run! Is it in the way?"
5.	Read Hebrews 12:3-14. These verses are sober reminders that God did not design or purpose that the Christian life would be free from suffering and hardship—our personal comfort or material prosperity do not seem to be His aim. What is God's aim and what are His methods according to these verses?
6.	Read Hebrews 12:15-29. Here the author sets up another comparison to make his point. List as many points of comparison as you can between Mount Sinai where Moses received the Old Covenant and Mount Zion and the New Covenant.
	Mount Sinai Mount Zion
7.	Read Hebrews 13. This book was written to people living in a pluralistic world just as we do. The author closes his book by painting a picture of what life in the <i>kingdom that cannot be shaken</i> looks like. What are the characteristics that set Christians apart from the world around them?