

“Where Are You Headed?”

Now faith is the substance/assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen... These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ¹⁴ For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a Heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 11:1, 13-16; 12:1-2

Are you living *for* the moment? Or, are you living *in* the moment? **THE EXTRAORDINARY LIVES OF THESE ORDINARY MEN AND WOMEN OF FAITH**

- They died in faith
- They had the spiritual understanding that they were tourists, just passing through
- They talked constantly about where their home really was, that Heaven was their home.

Address one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart. Ephesians 5:19

- They trained their minds to focus on what's in front of them and not “the good ‘ol days.” They were more committed to what was ahead of them than what was behind them.
- Right Speaking + Right Thinking = Right Desire

THESE ORDINARY FOLKS WERE PORTRAITS AND PATTERNS AND EXAMPLES OF WHAT/WHO IT IS REALLY ALL ABOUT

- The power to live life with the right desires and faith is found in Jesus
- He is the author of your faith and he is the perfecter of your faith
- The joy set before Jesus kept him on the cross
- His joy was the fulfillment of His father's redemptive plan and knowing that you would be with him for eternity
- His joy is your joy when you realize you're his joy

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. John 15:9-11

- His joy in you will change what you do today
- His joy will give you the fortitude and endurance needed to run the race and to live and die in faith

