

Known for Faith

*For by it [faith] the elders obtained a good report. – Hebrews 11:2
(A reading of the whole chapter of Hebrews 11 is recommended)*

There are so many Halls of Fame in our current world. We are most familiar with the ones associated the major sports or music genres. But a quick Google search or scan of Wikipedia reveals a list of nearly countless Halls of Fame, each unique to some specific professional or academic discipline, celebrating the achievements of a select few who attained to a high degree of expertise in their field and set the example as well as raised the bar for all who follow in terms of what can be secured by focused attention to, application of, or practice in their specialized craft.

In the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit gives us His inspired Hall of Fame, immortalizing for time and eternity those Old Testament men and women who chose to live and move and have their being focusing on the spiritual realm instead of the visible, on the eternal as opposed to the temporal. From Abel to David and beyond, we are treated to a line of succinct epithets over a multitude of lives of ordinary people who made an extraordinary mark on this earth by their trust in the God of the universe. By faith, these elders [exemplars] obtained a good report. In other words, their faith is not only something for those of us in the midst of our pilgrimage to pattern our lives after but was also so resolute and active that it gained the audience of heaven to the point of moving God's hand in the affairs of men.

The overarching lesson of the chapter is clear. Let us pause and reflect. We must strive to live each moment of each day in the reality behind our trust in God. In doing so, faith becomes substance and evidence – we see and know and perceive God's ways and movements more keenly than any material circumstance. The reality of the spiritual world trumps the restrictions of merely physical existence. Living by faith affects not only us and our path, but others as well because God becomes the primary author in the purpose of our breath. Ordinary men and women consistently trusting God delights heaven, glorifies Christ, and somehow mysteriously changes the trajectory of both individual lives and aggregate human history.

We will not be remembered for our wealth, for our accomplishments at work, or likely even for our common kindnesses and relationships. But when we live by faith, our legacy is written in hearts, and our inheritance is compounded in Heaven. Brothers and sisters, let us be known for nothing else but our unshakable, confident, resolute, and robust faith in our God and in our Christ. – *D. Murcek*