

Walking By Faith

By Dana Chau

We live with uncertainties. Global uncertainties. You see them in the headlines. Economic uncertainties. You feel them in daily transactions.

There may be health uncertainties. Will I get well? There may be relational uncertainties. Can I reconcile my relationship with a coworker or a family member? There may be transition uncertainties. When will things be normal again?

In developing countries, people face great uncertainties daily. They may have no guarantee of food or safety.

Uncertainties affect people differently. Uncertainties cause anxiety in some and hopelessness in others.

Hebrews 11

This passage of Scripture records men and women who lived courageously through uncertainties.

Noah didn't wait for rain to build the ark. Abraham left home without a map. Gideon obeyed God against impossible odds.

Compared to these people of faith, our lives are relatively easy. Were they of a different breed? Where did their faith come from?

1st, They leaned on God's character.

Hebrews 11:6 reminds us, "*And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.*"

These faithful men and women in Hebrews 11 lived through great uncertainties. What helped?

They believed there is a God, and that God keeps His promises. That He rewards those who obey.

Life is a mix of good and bad, successes and failures, gains and losses. But we can move through uncertainties, because of God's character. He is a Promise-keeper.

When God says that He will never leave us nor forsake us, He means it. When God says that His grace is sufficient, He means it. When God says that whoever believes in Jesus Christ will have eternal life, He means it.

2nd, They lived out God's certainties.

Noah didn't see storm clouds, but he knew that God called him to build an ark. Abraham didn't know where he would end up, but he was certain that God called him to leave where he was.

Many focus on the unknown, rather than on the known. This is the path of trouble. For instance, a

job uncertainty can impair a person's physical or emotional health. But this doesn't have to happen.

There are certainties, cause and effect, in every area of life, because God's creation is orderly. In the area of health, get sufficient rest. Eat a healthy diet. Exercise regularly.

To strengthen our emotional and spiritual life, pray with thanksgiving (Philippians 4:6). To strengthen our mental life, meditate on God's Word (Ro 12:2).

Our physical, emotional or spiritual life does not need to suffer because of uncertainties.

Not that we ignore life's uncertainties. It's a matter of focus. And often times, living out the certainties of God and the certainties of life will empower us to handle the uncertainties of life.

3rd, They left to God's conclusion.

The late Fred Smith said, "*If God is sovereign, then He will take care of the result.*" The result is not always in our control. To obey God is in our control. Leave the result to the conclusion of God.

Erwin McManus wrote in Chasing Daylight, "*... it is always right to do what's right, even if it turns out wrong. There are times God calls us to do the right thing, knowing that others will respond in the wrong way. Jesus did the right thing when He left Gethsemane where He struggled to embrace the Father's will and began a journey that would lead to the Cross. The consequence to [Jesus] was severe.... If the Cross teaches us anything, it teaches us that sometimes God comes through after we've been killed.... There is no principle that says everyone who does God's will lives – at least not on this earth.*"

Hebrews 11:36-40 recorded men and women who were willing to leave the outcome to the conclusion of God.

Gavin Reid, the Bishop of Maidstone, interviewed a boy in his congregation who shattered his back falling down the stairs. The boy remarked, "*God is fair.*"

Gavin asked, "*How old are you?*"

The boy replied, "*Seventeen.*"

"*How many years have you spent in the hospital?*"

The boy answered, "*Thirteen years.*"

"*Do you think that is fair?*"

The boy replied, "*God's got all of eternity to make it up to me.*"