

OVERCOMING THE WORLD

Last week, we looked at a couple of examples from **Hebrews 11**. Noah was faithful in spite of being completely surrounded by men whose every thought was always evil. The fact that he did it is testimony and proof that we can be faithful in similar circumstances, too.

The example of Abraham tells us that we can obey any command of God, no matter how difficult it may seem (**Heb. 11:17-19, Gen. 22:1**).

Moses refused an offer that most could not or would not refuse when he had the eternal perspective to choose temporary reproach for Christ over the riches and position of Egyptian royalty (which was also temporary). **Hebrews 11:25** admits that sin is pleasurable, but it is *fleeting*.

These men are all champions in the only contest that matters—the contest of faith. They overcame the world and were victorious.

We must face the world and overcome it. This world presents challenges to our faith. We can wither and shrink back in fear and doubt; or we can be deceived into pursuing the wrong goal (**Eccl. 1:1-2:26**); or we can be deceived into pursuing the right goal in the wrong way (**2 Timothy 2:5**); or we can endure temptation, grow stronger, and overcome the world.

Jesus promises a victory crown of life to those who are faithful unto death (**Rev. 2:10**). We will also be rewarded with: access to the Tree of Life (**Rev. 2:7**), the Lord's "*hidden manna*" and a new name written on a white stone (token of God's approval—**Rev. 2:17**), authority and the morning star (sign of victory—**Rev. 2:26-28**), pure garments and name written in the Book of Life (which we already have) and name confessed by Jesus to the Father (**Rev. 3:5**), a permanent and prominent place in God's house to glorify God (**Rev. 3:12**), a throne with Christ (**Rev. 3:21**).

The last promise is appropriate. Jesus overcame the world, and so should we.