



9. Faith is Success

Faith is success. Listen carefully. Faith is success. I didn't say that faith results in human success. I said *faith is success*. Hebrews 11 starts with these words, "*Now faith is the assurance [the concrete essence] of things hoped for [confidently expected], the conviction [the proof, the evidence] of things not seen. For by it the men of old gained approval.*" You see, faith makes the invisible things of God visible to us. The men and women of the Old Testament gained approval by their faith ... not by their human success. Three types of people are listed in Hebrews 11 ... in order, they are the waiters, the winners, and the wiped-out. Read that chapter and outline it that way ... the winners, the waiters, and the wiped-out ... the winners, the waiters, and the wiped-out. Their faith

was their success. That's especially obvious in the way Hebrews describes the wiped-out. Starting in verse 35, "*Others were tortured, not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection; and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated (men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground.*" Did you catch that phrase in the middle of the description of the wiped-out ... *men of whom the world was not worthy*. Success and God's approval was, and is, based on faith ... not on circumstances. By a faith that rises above our circumstances, we gain success in God's eyes.