



Week 4: Convinced

Hebrews 11:33-40

³³...who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. ³⁵Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. ³⁶Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— ³⁸the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

What if you were absolutely convinced God is [FOR YOU](#) and [AT WORK](#)?

Would you [RISK](#) faithfully?
Would you [TRUST](#) freely?

³⁹These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, ⁴⁰since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

Hebrews 12:1-2

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

...Strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. "Make level paths for your feet," so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.
~ Hebrews 12:12-13

How to receive the rescue of Jesus:

- 1) Admit you, like everyone else, have been in darkness and need the LIGHT of Jesus.
- 2) Ask God to forgive your sins by the sacrifice of Jesus.
- 3) Receive new LIFE from God by trusting in Jesus as your Savior & Lord.

You can do that now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

Jesus, I have been lost in deep darkness and need you to rescue me. I have done things I need your forgiveness of; I have lived in separation from you and need you to reconcile us. You died and rose from the dead, so I know you can do this in my life. I receive you as my rescuing savior and put my faith in you as my Lord. Help me to live for you in the light from this day forward. In your name, amen.

If you chose to follow Jesus today, text "LIGHT" to 309-250-2007 to receive additional information about next steps in following Jesus.

For Further Reflection:

How do you feel God has spoken to you through the Level Up series? Is there a particular scripture or point of conversation you keep coming back to? What might God be revealing to you through that point/scripture?

Read Hebrews 11:33-12:2--What resonates with or challenges you?
:: Why do you think the writer included such challenging elements like suffering and mistreatment along with more "hopeful" and "victorious" elements? What might this reveal to us about having hope and expectancy?
:: What do you think the passage means when it says, "God had planned something better for us..." (v. 40)?

Pastor Jeremiah said our choice to hold on to sin is usually an indicator we don't trust God is "for us" and at work in a particular area of life, and that the same is true with anything we choose to carry that isn't ours to hold.

:: How are you processing that?
:: What are some ways you might be able to tell when you're holding onto something you should release?
:: What are evidences we are living in Christ free of unnecessary burdens?

What was your answer to, "What would you do if you were absolutely convinced God is for you and at work?" What's one step you can take toward that this week?

Find someone to pray for you and check in on you as you do this.

Unless otherwise noted, today's Scripture is from the New International Version [NIV].
Pastor Jeremiah X. Gómez (@jxgomez) – October 24, 2021

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October is Appreciation Month – Take a minute to pray for one of these Heritage ministry team members. Consider reaching out with a note of encouragement:

Steve Abel, Phun Aithang, Paul Anderson, Meghan Brophy, Michaela Colbrese, Sue DeVrieze, David Dryer, Murphy Falgout, Jeff Francis, Adam Friedline, Luke Friedline, Matt Fry, Yolanda Nicolás Gil, Jeremiah Gómez, Kevin Herrick, Bryce Hewlett, Dale Howard, Josh Howard, Sadie Kaminski, Carolyn O'Connor, Heather Otwell, Denise Rostenbach, Bill Sandry, Zac Sandry, Robyn Stone, Stephanie Ward, Krissy Wheeler, Deb Wickard