



A Spiritual Encouragement Message
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God Reports by Faith

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The Bible does not pretend to exalt or glorify the characters in it, except for God and Jesus, even the Holy Spirit gave glory to Jesus and not to Himself (Jn.15:26, Acts 1:8). The Bible simply describes each character objectively, exactly as they were and with absolute impartiality, with their successes and errors:

It is recorded that Noah got so drunk after the flood, to the point where he lay uncovered shamefully exposed in his tent, which triggered the malice of Ham, one of his triplets who ended up being cursed with his descendants by Noah as a result (Gen.9:18-25).

The Bible does not hide that Abraham and Sarah lied from time to time (Gen.20). Also, the Bible reveals that both of them mutually consented for Abraham to commit adultery with Hagar, their Egyptian slave girl who conceived Ishmael (Gen.16). The world is still dealing with the descendants of those twelve tribes which do not precisely bless all nations (Gen.25:12-16).

The Scriptures tell us that Isaac also lied out of fear putting his beautiful wife, Rebekah, in danger of being taken and abused by any other men (Gen.26:6-11).

We can read that Jacob was a cheater from birth (Gen.25:24-26), to youth (Gen.25:27-34), through adulthood (Gen.27:1-38, 30:27-43), and until death (Gen.48).

Moses wrote about his own shortcomings when he and Aaron, his brother the High Priest, failed to give God the glory and proudly exalted themselves before the congregation in their anger (Num.20:1-13, Psalm 106:32-33).

It is also written openly about Rahab's former "entertainment business" (Joshua 2:1).

We read that Gideon needed more signs than a freeway to assure his trust in God and after God gave him tremendous victory over the enemies, he mistakenly led the Israelites to Idolatry (Judges 8:24-28).

Barak was so insecure that he would not act without Deborah's support (Judges 4:4-10).

Then Samson, the strongest man but also the weakest man whenever he saw any pagan, pretty women (Judges 14:1-3, 16:1 & 4).

You would not like to be Jephthah's daughter (Judges 11:30-40).

David was a man after God's own heart, but he was a man after all, who went from committing rape to adultery to murder (2 Samuel 11).

Surprisingly, inspired by God's Spirit, the author of the epistle to the Hebrew Christians of the first century wrote that all those ancient characters above after all received commendation and obtained a good report by faith (Heb.11:2). Interestingly, the inspired writer does not even mention their wrong doings! He does not bring up their sins and transgressions but only focuses on their faith, and on the astonishingly ways God used them because of their faith. As if the phrase "by faith" became their first name (Heb.11).

Jesus the author and finisher of the faith suffered paying for their sins and ours sins at the cross, as if God forgave them and us in credit sort of speak, in advance and now he only sees their faith and ours and decides not to see theirs sins and our sins anymore (Romans 3:21-26). In fact, the whole New Testament made possible by Jesus after His death, burial and resurrection, does not even individually, describe in detail any more of the shortcomings, sins and transgressions committed by the men and women who lived their lives by faith during the Old Covenant (Rom.4:6-9). Except for Rahab "the harlot", but now she is seen as a great example next to Abraham, the father of the faith, in the second chapter of the epistle written by James, and next in line from Moses, God's faithful servant in the eleventh chapter of the epistle written to the Hebrew Christians.

Because of Jesus, even you and I have in fact a better hope than them (Hb.8:6). Your name and my name have the same and more opportunities to be in God's list if we dedicate ourselves to truly live our lives by faith.

It is written individually that the men and women in the list in Hebrews the eleventh chapter, were filled with God's Spirit, but yet as we know He did not force them to be perfect. God gave them free will and they willingly sinned, but they also repented and willingly decided to live by faith.

Today God supplies the Spirit to those who obey Him (Acts 2:38-39), sealing us with His promised Holy Spirit, but He will not restraint any of us to obey and stay faithful, we need to individually decide those things in our heart, soul, will, and mind and commit ourselves to live by faith.