



Persevering Faith Is Perfected by God

Lesson Forty-Nine • Hebrews 11:39-40

"It's déjà vu all over again!" – Famous "Yogism" by New York Yankees catcher, Yogi Berra

"(men of whom the world was not worthy)" (v. 38)

I **approve** of you! (11:2, 4-6) I am **not ashamed** to be called your God! (11:16)

I have **already prepared** a better city, better country, better resurrection with a better new creation for you:
My Presence dwelling with My People in My Place! (11:10, 16, 26, 35)

Persevering **WORTHIES** are and will be **PERFECTED** together by God in His Son, Jesus Christ, with His Spirit!

God Perfects Persevering Worthies Together in a "Now-Not Yet" Manner

1. God Was **PLEASED** with the Persevering Faith of All These Old Covenant **WORTHIES**.

"And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised," (v. 39)

➤ **God's Past Pleasure in Them:** They all received God's **WITNESS** of His approving pleasure! (v. 39a)

1. God's witness is His divine **APPROVAL** of their preserving faith.
2. God's witness is recorded in **SCRIPTURE** for us.
3. God's witness speaks to their **WORTH** to Him.

The Joseph Factor: *God knows! God cares! Your choices matter!*

➤ **God's Future Plan for Them:** They did not receive the final fulfillment of "the **PROMISE**" in the coming Christ! (v. 39b)

God not only records His testimony, He also reveals His timetable!

1. Old Covenant Worthies received **PARTIAL** fulfillment of God's promises.

Sarah and Isaac's birth (v. 11); **Abraham and Isaac's resurrection-like deliverance** (v. 19); **Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph Blessing Their Children** (vv. 20-22); **Moses and the Passover and Exodus** (v. 28), **Israel and Crossing the Red Sea and Conquering Jericho** (vv. 29-30); **Rahab and Her Conversion** (v. 31); and **the Many Who Obtained Promises Throughout the Story of the Old Testament** (v. 33) **Despite the Outcome** – some even experiencing resurrection-like coming back to life (v. 35)!

2. Old Covenant Worthies received **PHYSICAL** fulfillment of God's promises on this earth.
3. Old Covenant Worthies received **PICTORIAL** fulfillment of God's promises in heaven – *upward and onward!*
4. Old Covenant Worthies did not receive the **FINAL** fulfillment of God's promises in the coming His Son, Jesus Christ, before they died.

What Will This Final Fulfillment Look Like?

God's Presence dwelling with His People in His Place through His Person by His Power for His Purpose!

2. God Has **PROVIDED** Something **BETTER** for Us as New Covenant Worthies with Persevering Faith.

"because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect." (v. 40)

- **God's New Covenant Provision for Us: "SOMETHING BETTER"** is the New Covenant by the blood of Jesus! (v. 40a)

The Something **BETTER** Is **JESUS**...

1. His better **Name** than even angels. (1:4)
2. His better **Glory** than even Moses. (3:3)
3. His better **Priesthood** than Aaron according to the order of Melchizedek who literally never died. (7:7)
4. His better **Hope** that entered behind the veil in heaven, where on earth only the High Priest entered once a year. (7:19)
5. His better **Covenant** by His own blood than the Old Covenant with the blood of mere animals. (7:22; 8:6)
6. His better **Guarantee** of this better New Covenant as our Eternal High Priest seated at God's right hand in heaven. (7:22)
7. His better **Ministry** who is both our Eternal High Priest and our Sinless Sacrifice. (8:6)
8. His better **Promises** in the New Covenant of a new heart, complete forgiveness, and indwelling Spirit. (8:6-12)
9. His better **Sacrifice** who offers Himself once-for-all-time as sinless sacrifice and wrath-satisfying substitute. (9:23-28)
10. His better **Possession** of all that is in heaven which is also eternal and unshakeable. (10:34; 12:28-29)
11. His better **Country** in heaven now but one day will be on earth in the coming Kingdom and New Creation. (11:16; 12:22-24)
12. His better **Resurrection** that will also happen to us at the rapture and/or return of Christ. (11:35; cf. 11:5; 9:27-28)
13. His better **Blood** that speaks better than the martyred blood of Abel and his "better" animal sacrifice. (12:24; cf. 11:4)

How Has All of These Better Things Been Made Possible for Us?

"Therefore it was necessary for the...heavenly things themselves [to be cleansed] with better sacrifices than these. For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; nor was it that He would offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the holy place year by year with blood that is not his own. Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; **but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.**" Hebrews 9:23-26

- **God's New Covenant Plan for Us and Them Together:** The **PERFECTION** of all of us together right "now" in the present and in the "not yet" future! (v. 40a)

1. This perfection is the priestly privilege of **ENTERING** into God's holy presence like His Son both "now" and in the "not yet"! (10:14; 6:19-20)
2. This perfection is a "now-not yet" reality in **HEAVEN** for Old Covenant Worthies and a "now-not yet" reality on **EARTH** for us New Covenant Worthies! (12:22-24)

All of God's worthies together are right now spiritually perfected and not yet finally perfected by Jesus Christ, the trailblazing Pioneer and Perfecter of all faith!

3. God's **PERFECTION** of Both Old and New Covenant Worthies Is "Now-Not Yet" in Jesus!

Jesus is both the trailblazing **PIONEER** and **PERFECTOR** of all faith! (12:1-2)

God Is Perfecting Your Faith in a "Now-Not Yet" Persevering Manner!

- Since these Old Covenant Worthies pleased God with their persevering faith, how much more should we with all our better New Covenant privileges in Jesus Christ?
- As New Covenant Worthies we experience a "Now-Not Yet" final fulfillment that is far better than their "Now-Not Yet" partial fulfillment, so don't fall away or shrink back but keep moving forward by persevering faith! (10:35-39)!
- Keep obediently wandering toward our final fulfillment together with all these Old Covenant Worthies: *Drawing near by faith, holding fast in hope, and moving forward with love* (10:19-25) *despite the outcome* (11:1-40)!

Hebrews 11 • By Persevering Faith Keep Moving Forward to God's Final Rest and Our Future Salvation!						
Point	11:4-7	11:8-22	11:23-28	11:28-31	11:32-38	11:39-40
Progress	<p>Persevering Faith PLEASES GOD Despite the Culture!</p> <p>PRIMEVAL PROTOTYPES Pleasing Worshipers</p> <p><i>By Faith</i> ABEL Worshiped Sacrificially</p> <p>Martyred in Testing!</p> <p><i>By Faith</i> ENOCH Walked Relationally</p> <p>Raptured After Testing!</p> <p>--- Reflection (v. 6) --- <i>Without Faith</i> IT'S IMPOSSIBLE to PLEASE GOD</p> <p>Must Believe God Is the "I AM" and Becomes the Rewarder of All Who Draw Near</p> <p>--- Continuation ---</p> <p><i>By Faith</i> NOAH Worked Fearfully</p> <p>Delivered Through Testing!</p>	<p>Persevering Faith OBEYS GOD Despite the Unknown!</p> <p>PATRIARCHAL HEIRS Obedient Wanderers</p> <p><i>By Faith (3x)</i> ABRAHAM & SARAH Wandered Obediently into the Deadly Unknown</p> <p>STEP OUT When Called! LIVE OUT as Wanderers! REACH OUT for God's Ability!</p> <p>--- Reflection (vv. 13-16) --- <i>In Faith</i> ALL THESE FELLOW HEIRS Died Without Fulfillment</p> <p>Wandering Patiently</p> <p>HOLD OUT Until Death! See and Welcome the Promises from a Distance as Confessing Pilgrims!</p> <p>--- Continuation ---</p> <p><i>By Faith</i> ABRAHAM Wandered Obediently into the Face of Death</p> <p>RULE OUT Compromise Even If Deadly! Willing to Sacrifice a Future Legacy in Resurrection Hope!</p> <p><i>By Faith (3x)</i> ISAAC, JACOB, JOSEPH Wandered Far-Sightedly Beyond Death</p> <p>STAND OUT at the Finish Line of Death! Wanting to Bless a Future Legacy in Resurrection Hope</p>	<p>Persevering Faith CHOOSSES GOD Despite the Cost!</p> <p>PROPHET-MEDIATOR Courageous Weighers</p> <p><i>By Faith</i> MOSES' PARENTS Weighed Courageously to Resist Compromise with Worldly Laws</p> <p>RESIST by Not Fearing Worldly Authority! CHOOSE Risk Over Safety!</p> <p><i>By Faith (3x)</i> MOSES Weighed Courageously to Refuse Carnality of Worldly Living</p> <p>REFUSE by Looking Forward to Heavenly Reward! CHOOSE Reapproach Over Status!</p> <p>Weighed Courageously to Reject Cohabitation with a Worldly Land</p> <p>REJECT by Not Fearing Worldly Anger! CHOOSE Unseen Ruler Over Seen!</p> <p>Weighed Courageously to Rest in the Refuge of the Passover Sacrifice from the LORD of Lords</p> <p>REST in the Fear of God Who Forgives and Frees! CHOOSE Redemption Over Slavery!</p>	<p>Persevering Faith FOLLOWS GOD Despite the Odds!</p> <p>POWERFUL DELIVERANCE Victorious Watchers</p> <p><i>By Faith</i> CELEBRATING PASSOVER SACRIFICE Watched Victoriously Despite Hardened Odds</p> <p>BROUGHT OUT by Passover Blood, While Unbelieving Firstborns Were Destroyed!</p> <p><i>By Faith</i> CROSSING the RED SEA Watched Victoriously Despite Helpless Odds</p> <p>BROUGHT THROUGH on Dry Land, While Stronger Enemies Were Swallowed Up!</p> <p><i>By Faith</i> CONQUERING JERICHO'S WALLS Watched Hopelessly Despite Hopeless Odds</p> <p>BROUGHT IN by Worship, While the Disobedient and Their Walls Perished!</p> <p><i>By Faith</i> CONVERTING RAHAB the HARLOT Watched Victoriously Despite Hell-Bound Odds</p> <p>BROUGHT OUT from Being Destroyed and BROUGHT INTO God's People, Having Received God's Promise and Welcomed God's People!</p>	<p>Persevering Faith TREASURES GOD Despite the Outcome!</p> <p>PERSISTENT FAITHFULNESS Faithful Warriors</p> <p><i>No Time for</i> GIDEON, BARAK, SAMSON, JEPHTHAH, DAVID also SAMUEL and the PROPHETS</p> <p><i>Who Through Faith</i> ESCAPED from DEATH Warring Faithfully</p> <p>by Conquering Adversaries, Quenching Antagonism, Empowering Ability, and Women Receiving Back Their Dead</p> <p>DID RECEIVE a Resurrection-Like Deliverance in the Present!</p> <p>ENDURED to DEATH Warring Faithfully</p> <p>by Refusing to Avoid Death</p> <p>Warring Faithfully by Receiving Trials unto Death</p> <p>WILL RECEIVE a Better Resurrection Deliverance in the Future!</p> <p>--- Reflection (v. 38a) --- WANDERERS of WHOM THIS WORLD ISN'T WORTHY but ARE WORTHY of GOD</p> <p>--- Continuation --- Warring Faithfully as Wanderers Without Property or Place to Live</p>	<p>Persevering Faith IS PERFECTED by God!</p> <p>PERFECTED TOGETHER Persevering Worthies</p> <p><i>Through Their Faith</i> ALL THESE PERSEVERED Worthies Who Obtained a Good Witness from God</p> <p>BUT THEY DID NOT Receive What Was Promised!</p> <p>GOD PLANNED and PROVIDED SOMETHING BETTER FOR US Worthies Who Together Are Perfected and Will Be Perfected by Christ, WHO IS the Pioneer and Perfecter of All Our Faith</p> <p>THEY WERE NOT & WILL NOT Be Made Perfect Without Us!</p>
Problem	<p>RESISTED Corrupt Perversion</p>	<p>RESILIENT in Continual Predicaments</p>	<p>REJECTED Cultural Pressure</p>	<p>RESOLVED Conflicting Perspectives</p>	<p>RESURRECTED One Way or the Other Out of Crucifying Persecution</p>	<p>REALIZING Christ Jesus' Perfection of Faith</p>
Passage	Genesis 4–11	Genesis 12–22 / 23–50	Exodus 1–13	Exodus 11–Joshua 6	Judges–Malachi	Old Covenant Good Promises in the Christ! New Covenant Better Fulfillment in Jesus!