LIVING FAITH XI
Transcends Earthly Troubles
Hebrews 11:29; Exodus 14:10-14

INTRODUCTION

A. Hebrews 10:29
   1. Sad theme throughout the Bible.
   2. "…insulted the Spirit of grace…"
      a. Judas Iscariot, Ananias, Sapphira, Demas, Hymaneus, Alexander,…
      b. Faithless Hall of Shame.
      c. Turned their backs on God.

B. Deuteronomy 9:7, Israel described as "rebellious against God."
   1. Time and again…
      a. No food [grumbled] – given manna.
      b. Too much manna [grumbled] – given meat.
      c. No water [grumbled] – God provides!
      d. One rebellion led to 40 years in the wilderness.
   2. They had seen God and the work of His hand.

C. Living faith … transcends [rises above] earthly troubles!

I. <u>BY FAITH</u>, THEY PASSED…RED SEA. Hebrews 11:29

A. Crossing the Red Sea.
   1. Escape from Egypt – Jubilation!
   2. God's people trapped, Exodus 14:3.
      a. Sea in front of them.
      b. Desert on either side.
      c. Pharaoh's army behind them.
   3. Israel responds with fear, Exodus 14:10-12.
   4. Egyptians look on with delight.

B. God's Instruction.
   1. Moses to Israel, Exodus 14:13-14
   2. Moses believed – stretched out his rod (Ex. 14:16, 21).
   3. Israel believed – and by faith set out to cross Sea (Ex. 14:16, 22).
   4. Proclaimed praise for God, Exodus 15:1-2.

II. WHEN OUR FAITH IS TESTED.

A. Our Faith Will be Tested, James 1:2-3.
   1. Produces endurance!
   2. The word "testing" leans toward persecutions, outward trials and hardships.
      a. Personal sickness, bereavement, financial difficulties, family conflicts, personal problems, etc.
      b. Also, when going well: personal prosperity, good health, etc.
      c. Can tempt to materialism and trust in ourselves, Luke 8:14.
   3. When faced with "trials" a Christian should grow spiritually.

B. Remember, Things Are Not As Bad As They Seem.
   1. The Israelites saw no way out, but thy missed the obvious - GOD!

2. Our tendency is to look at the negative, or to imagine the worst.
3. Too often we fail to see the positive.
4. Romans 8:28

C. Look To God.
1. Israelites cried out to God, Exodus 14:10.
   a. Through their complaints – two attitudes:
      i. Forgetfulness – for what God had done (plagues).
      ii. Ingratitude – recognizing the blessings of God.
   b. God still responded, Exodus 14:13-14.
2. Turn to God when our faith is tested.
   a. This should become natural.
      i. 1 Corinthians 10:13
      ii. Psalm 63:1
      iii. *Where could I go, oh, where could I go,*
      seeking a refuge for my soul?
      Needing a friend to save me in the end,
      where could I go but to the Lord?
   b. Through prayer, Scripture reading, fellowship with Christians.

D. We Should Move Forward.
1. Exodus 14:13 – Stand by and see…
2. Exodus 14:15 – Go forward…
3. We know what we ought to do, but do we?
   a. Depend on God, 1 Peter 5:12; 2 Corinthians 12:9.
   b. Move forward, Phil. 3:13-14; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18.
4. What sea is before us, what wall, what closed door?
   a. Keep the faith.
   b. Hebrews 13:6

CLOSING

A. God has the answer for our individual lives.
B. But, we must hear His instructions and press on.
C. God, who opened the Sea, will open a door for us.
D. Living faith rises above earthly troubles..