

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

February 23, 2025

SERMON SERIES

The Power of the Plus Factor What It Is, and Why You Need It

SERMON FOR TODAY:

"The Final Four"

Scripture: Hebrews 11:1-3; 32-40
(New Revised Standard Version)

1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 2 Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. 3 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible...

32 And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— 33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, 34 quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.

35 Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. 36 Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— 38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

39 Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, 40 since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

Sermon Notes

As I share the concluding message in this series, I would like to consider the Hebrew writer's Final Four of Faith:

1. Gideon was _____.

2. Barak was _____.

3. Samson was _____.

4. Jephthah was _____.

Pastor Kip's Sunday sermons can be found each week in podcast form at "Preaching Now" on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and other platforms.