

**The Sermon - In 10 Sentences Or Less**  
Perfectly-Imperfect Faith 4 - Barak's Faith:



1. Toward the end of Hebrews 11, the author/preacher fires off a list of other Old Testament examples of faith for us to consider, four of whom are from the period of the Judges between Joshua and Israel's 1st king, Saul, three of whom we'll consider over the last few Sundays of our series.

2. First up is Barak, his story is told in Judges 4, and then retold in a song/poem in Judges 5.

3. His story actually starts with the single most honorable, positive leadership figure in Judges: Deborah (4.4-5).

4. Barak is a timid, hesitant figure, twice needing Deborah to bolster his faith (4.8, 14), and a result, he would be the one remembered honorably for Israel's victory against Sisera's forces (4.9; 5.24a).

5. So why is Barak included in Hebrews 11, and not Deborah, the more heroic figure in Judges 4?

6. First, we need to ask ourselves - what does our reluctant faith cost us? (see the Chip Ingram quote below)

7. One of the surest signs of God's call in our lives is that we can't do it without Him...if He isn't directly involved helping us, we fail.

8. Second, how does our faith need a partner, for there is no Deborah without Barak, and there is no Barak without Deborah?

9. Every one of us on occasion will need to borrow or lean on someone else's faith, or in the language of Ecclesiastes, we'll fall down and need someone else to lift us up (Eccl. 4.10).

10. But also, in what is clearly the chief lesson of Judges 4, some tasks and endeavors in God's Kingdom are simply too big for just one person to execute or fulfill (see Luke 10.1 from the ministry of Jesus Himself on this).

**Quote for the Week**

"...Every Christian's life is marked by windows of opportunity that demand a radical step of faith in order to follow Christ and fulfill His purposes for them. The difference between good and great is not a matter of knowledge or pedigree but a willingness to live by extraordinary faith. What makes a step of faith radical is that it will always involve significant risk...The Lord will bring you to the edge of a decision at which point you'll have to decide whether to leap in the direction He's calling you or pull back to a place that seems safe...You will have a decision to make that pits obedience against comfort and convenience...While you usually know which direction God wants you to choose, you also know most people will think you're absolutely crazy for choosing it..." (Chip Ingram)

**Prayer for the Week**

1. At least once this week, pray through that Chip Ingram quote for your own life, and for KirkWood's present and future.
2. From the Church of New Zealand:  
"Eternal God, give us such trust in You that we measure our lives not by what we have done or how we have failed, but only by our faith in You. We believe – help our unbelief, amen."