

A Victorious Faith, Identity, and Outcome

FOUNDATIONAL TEXT: “Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith” (Heb 13:7).

I. My _____...

- A. What do I believe? In whom do I trust? For what am I hoping? For whom am I living?
- B. Input from *Hebrews*:
 1. “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (Heb 11:1).
 2. *Hebrews 13:7* introduced “the word of God.”
 3. *Hebrews 13:20* describes “the God of peace who brought again from the dead...Jesus.”
 4. *Hebrews 11:6* assures us that “without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.”

II. My faith will shape my _____ of _____

- A. Am I walking towards God or away from him? With myself at the center or God at the center? In holiness or unholiness? Righteousness or unrighteousness? In the light or in darkness? Bearing the works of the flesh or the fruit of the Spirit?
- B. “Now may the God of peace...equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight” (Heb 13:20-21).

III. My way of life will generate _____

- A. *Hebrews 13:7* encouraged us to “remember” our “leaders” and “imitate their faith.”
- B. Which leads to a sobering question: if someone imitates my faith, my character, my priorities, what will be the result? (3 *John 11*; 1 *Cor 11:1*)

IV. My way of life will also come to define the _____ of my _____

- A. Take enough steps in a given direction and your steps come to form a path; exist long enough with a worldview, character, priorities, and your way of life comes to form an identity.
- B. *Hebrews 13:20-21* makes clear: the God of peace desires that Jesus would be your Lord, shepherd, and deliverer; he desires a covenant relationship with you. If you are his and he is yours, this is the essence of a victorious identity.

V. The pathway of my identity will lead to an ultimate _____.

- A. Which is why *Hebrews 13:7* encouraged us to “consider the outcome of their way of life.”
- B. Each and every way of life ultimately leads to an encounter with the Lord Jesus (2 *Thes 1:5-12*).
- C. Glory forever and ever belongs to Jesus Christ (*Heb 13:20-21*). When my way of life reaches its ultimate outcome, will I share in that glory because his name was glorified in me during my time on this earth, or will I be the recipient of vengeance because I did not obey him?
- D. If my current pathway is heading in the wrong direction, it’s not too late (2 *Cor 5:17-21*).