

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Hebrews 12:1-3**.
- B. A couple of years ago there were a series of commercial featuring Michael Jordan and the slogan was, "I want to be like Mike."
- C. I am not going to preach about Michael Jordan today, but I want to talk about being like some faithful people as found in the Scriptures.

## I. I WANT TO BE LIKE....

- (I) A. **Gideon**, and stand firm even though my friends are few.
  - 1. See Jud. 6:11-16.
  - 2. Gideon was an outcast who had been reject by his family. He was discouraged and depressed about the state of affairs with the Midianites. But the Lord came to him and told him not to worry and go, deliver Israel.
  - 3. And with God's help, Gideon rallied Israel, and defeated the innumerable host of the Midianites with torches, pitchers, and trumpets!
- (J) B. **Aaron**, and uphold the hands of my spiritual Leader (Christ).
  - 1. See Ex. 17:10-13.  
And Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought against Amalek; and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. **11** So it came about when Moses held his hand up, that Israel prevailed, and when he let his hand down, Amalek prevailed. **12** But Moses' hands were heavy. Then they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it; and Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side and one on the other. Thus his hands were steady until the sun set. **13** So Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.
  - 2. Joshua is fighting Amalek. While the battle is going on Moses holds his hands up. Joshua's forces begin to take advantage while Moses' hands are in the air.
  - 3. But when Moses begins to tire of holding his hands up, Aaron and Hur help him so that the battle is won by Israel.
- (K) C. **John**, and lean upon the bosom of the Master.
  - 1. At the Last Supper, John was showing his love and adoration for Christ by leaning upon the Lord's breast (Jn. 13:23). An action that showed John's great dependence on Jesus. There was reclining on Jesus' breast one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.
  - 2. We are to learn to lean on Christ too (Mt. 11:28-30).
- (L) D. **Isaiah**, and consecrate myself to do God's work.
  - 1. See Isa. 6:1-8. Isaiah wanted to be clean of sin and was ready when the Lord asked.
  - 2. Are we ready to go?
- (M) E. **Stephen**, and manifest a forgiving spirit toward all who hurt me.
  - 1. Stephen taught the truth, and they rejected the message and messenger (Ac. 7:58-60).  
And when they had driven him out of the city, they began stoning him, and the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul. **59** And they went on stoning Stephen as he called upon the Lord and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" **60** And falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" And having said this, he fell asleep.
  - 2. Yet, Stephen was forgiving, even in death. May we also manifest such an attitude.
- (N) F. **The heavenly host**, and proclaim the message of peace and good will.
  - 1. See Lk. 2:8-14.  
And in the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields, and keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. **10** And the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which shall be for all the people; **11** for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. **12** "And this will be a sign for you:

you will find a baby wrapped in cloths, and lying in a manger." **13** And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, **14** "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

2. Angels do the will of God in heaven. They also come to earth to do the Father's will.
3. Although they cannot preach the gospel, they brought a wonderful message to mankind.
4. We have the privilege of preaching the gospel to the world (1Pet. 1:12; see Mk. 16:15).

**(1Pet 1:12)** It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven-- things into which angels long to look.

(O) G. **Joshua**, and be of great courage when fighting life's battles.

1. See Jo. 1:5-9.

"No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. **6** "Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. **7** "Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. **8** "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. **9** "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

2. Joshua had many battles to fight. Some of the battles were with the Israelites themselves and others with the Gentiles. But God told him to not be afraid. Be strong and courageous.
3. We will have many battles in life, God asks us too to be strong and brave.

(P) H. **Abraham**, and trust implicitly in God.

1. Abraham had no earthly hope of fathering a son. But with his heavenly hope against his earthly hope, he remained faithful (Rom. 4:18-21).

In hope against hope he believed, in order that he might become a father of many nations, according to that which had been spoken, "SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE." **19** And without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb; **20** yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief, but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, **21** and being fully assured that what He had promised, He was able also to perform.

2. Abraham's actions, based on his faith, resulted in righteousness (Jas. 2:21-23).

Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? **22** You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; **23** and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS," and he was called the friend of God.

3. When there is no earthly hope for and solution then there is a heavenly one. We must learn, like Abraham to trust in God.

## II. I WANT TO BE LIKE... CHRIST.

- A. God's ultimate plan was for the redeemed to be like His Son (Rom. 8:30).
- B. The NT speaks of our being like X (Col. 1:28-29; 2:5-7; 3:1-4).

**(Col 1:28-29)** And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ. **29** And for this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.

**(Col 2 5-7)** For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ. **6** As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, **7** having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.

**(Col. 3:1-4)** Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. **3** For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

#### IV. CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. This morning, we looked at nine people who make up a great cloud of witnesses.
- B. Who do I want to be like? I want to be like...
  - 1. **Gideon**, and stand firm even though my friends are few.
  - 2. **Aaron**, and uphold the hands of my spiritual Leader (X).
  - 3. **John**, and lean upon the bosom of the Master.
  - 4. **Isaiah**, and consecrate myself to do God's work.
  - 5. **Stephen**, and manifest a forgiving spirit toward all who hurt me.
  - 6. **The heavenly host**, and proclaim the message of peace and good will.
  - 7. **Joshua**, and be of great courage when fighting life's battles.
  - 8. **Abraham**, and trust implicitly in God.
- C. May we use their faith, commitment and devotion as an encouragement to remain faithful ourselves.
- D. Come to Jesus, the author and perfecter of such saving faith.