

# HEROES OF THE BIBLE

REMAINING FAITHFUL THROUGH  
YOUR LATER YEARS

Review Copy

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10Publishing, a division of 10ofthose.com  
9D Centurion Court, Farington, Leyland, PR25 3UQ, England  
Email: [info@10ofthose.com](mailto:info@10ofthose.com)  
Website: [www.10ofthose.com](http://www.10ofthose.com)



**Roger Hitchings**

**30 UNDATED DEVOTIONS**

## Believing God

*'Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness'*  
(Gen. 15:6).

Abram's faith in God was quite remarkable. He was a childless man of 75 and God promised that his descendants would be as many as the stars in the night sky, and he believed God! He ignored his advancing years and the growing limitations of his body. God had promised and that was enough for him. Such faith was the grounds of Abraham's acceptance with God as we are told in Genesis 15:6.

It is the same for us. The Apostle Paul reminds us in Romans 4:5 that 'to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.' So we believe that God justifies wicked people on the basis of Christ's death for sinners alone, without our contributing anything at all.

This is the glory of being a Christian. We depend entirely on what God has done for us through Jesus Christ. We don't depend on our own merits or efforts. We don't depend on our religious observance or some ceremony we have gone through. It is by grace alone, through

faith alone, in Christ alone. Praise God for all His mercy and grace.

Abraham 'believed the LORD' and His promise despite his age and despite what his experience of life told him. It is so easy to listen to other voices than the Lord's. But when we do that we begin to rely on other things and not to depend entirely on Jesus Christ. Such thinking opens the door to doubts and uncertainty. Fears may come to us but we must simply look to Jesus. The fact is that, as justified sinners, we are completely accepted by God and there is nothing for us to add. No matter what our age we can trust in Him and know the glory of sins forgiven.

***'Saved by grace  
alone! This is all  
my plea'***

*From the hymn 'Grace! tis a  
charming sound'*

## An Example Followed

*“Then David said to the whole assembly, “Praise the LORD your God.”*  
(1 Chr. 29:20).

It was David’s last act and it was a noble one. He had designed the temple and now he was encouraging the whole nation to be involved by giving towards the building. It was to be a really magnificent building – ‘this palatial structure is not for man but for the LORD God’ (29:1).

David gave his personal wealth (29: 3–4), and he invited everyone else to give too. The response was so extraordinary that everyone rejoiced (29: 9). Then David led the people in a wonderful prayer of thanksgiving. And when he had prayed he called on everyone there to ‘Praise the LORD’ (v. 20).

David wanted the temple to be so impressive because he wanted to glorify God. So he set the people an example of generosity and worship and they followed. Of course, he was king and that influenced everyone. But the principle he applied is one that works throughout life.

One of the things the Bible teaches us is that older people are to be an example. Their conversation and conduct is to be such that others

will want to emulate them (Tit. 2:2–5; Heb. 13:7). This happens most when we desire to honour God above everything else.

Too often we who are older can be full of complaints about what is happening in the world and in the church. That is not a biblical way to behave. We must face up to the reality of life with all its trials and troubles, but they should not dominate our thoughts. Rather we are to be those who praise the Lord from full hearts of love and we are to be generous in spirit. Then, by God’s grace, we will give an example to be followed.

***‘Fill thou my life,  
O Lord my God,  
in every part with  
praise.’***

*From the hymn of that name*

## Faith Unfailing

*‘And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God’* (Dan. 6:23).

There is probably no better known story than Daniel in the lions’ den. But what people tend not to know is that Daniel was in his eighties when this happened. He was still serving God in the place where He had put him in his youth (1:3–6). Faithful and conscientious, he impressed the mighty Darius who wanted to make him Prime Minister (6:3). But there were others who despised Daniel’s integrity and thoroughness. So they hatched their plot and Daniel became the victim (6:4–7). Things were all against him.

But Daniel was a man of faith. He maintained his life of prayer and did not try to hide his devotion to the Lord (6:10). He was ready to pay whatever price that might involve. So into the lions’ den he went. But it was Darius who had a bad night’s sleep. Next morning he returned to see if anything was left of poor old Daniel. He got such a surprise. Daniel was there completely unharmed. God had been faithful to his aged servant.

What a tremendous encouragement this story is. And it is so relevant to us in our later years. It is a great danger in old age to look for the easy way out, to compromise and avoid risk. Our opportunities for service may be very different from Daniel’s and our physical capacity may be less. But his faithfulness to the Lord and his unfailing trust in God are encouragements to us. Do our lives reflect the godly values that others take notice of? Do we respond to adverse circumstances with faith, confidence and a calm contentment? Do we have that total trust in our God?

The Lord will keep us and strengthen us. May our faith be unfailing.

***‘For I will be  
with thee, thy  
troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to thee  
thy deepest distress.’***

*From the hymn ‘How firm a  
foundation’*

## Looking at the Right Things

*'On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit'* (Rev. 1:10).

The book of Revelation was the last book of the Bible to be written. The Apostle John wrote it when he was in his early nineties. He was in exile on the prison island of Patmos. It was not a nice place to be, especially at his age. But he was there because he loved and served Jesus and had been banished as a result.

So there was John on that bleak island and it was Sunday, the Lord's Day. How could he worship the Lord in such circumstances? How could He praise the Lord when things were so difficult? Well he could and he did – because his heart was fixed on the One who loved Him, and that put everything else into context.

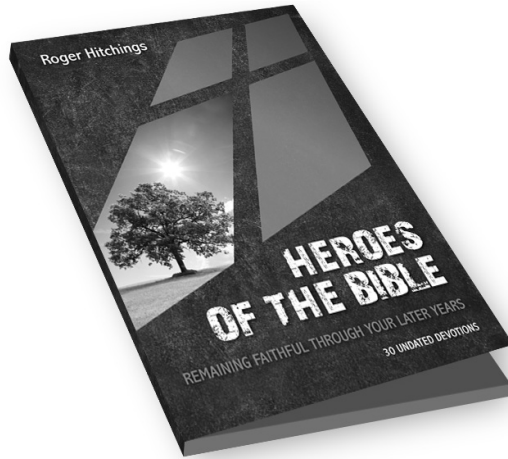
He was 'in the Spirit' on that Sunday. He was spiritually awake and every part of his mind and soul was focussed on the Saviour. He was in communion with Him and he was permitted to see and hear the most amazing things. But most of all He saw Jesus (vv. 12–18).

Sometimes hardships and sorrows come into our lives entirely because we love the Saviour. He is precious to us, and in being faithful to Him we experience opposition from other people and sometimes even from people we love. Just being old can also be a great trial, one of the greatest we have to face. But we still want to be faithful to the Lord.

What we need when we are old and facing the great challenges that come with age is to know the grace of God that helps us to focus on Jesus. Don't keep looking at your circumstances; seek the Lord and think about His word. Engage in communion with Him. It truly is our greatest comfort and blessing.

***'Turn your eyes  
upon Jesus  
look full in His  
wonderful face'***

*From the hymn of that name*



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