

EARNESTLY CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH – Nov. 2025

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FAITH IDENTIFIES WITH GOD'S PEOPLE

Many people who claim to be Christians want nothing to do with God's people. That is telling! A true saving faith identifies with God's people.

Hebrews 11:24–26 (NKJV)

24 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,
25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,
26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

By faith, Moses, when he became of age, made a CHOICE! It was a FAITH choice! We are not told how old Moses was when he came to faith, but in this faith commitment, we see that he was of age. It was a mature decision. He wasn't just going along with this as an immature child might do, wanting to be accepted in the context of a "Christian Culture". The Bible does not specify a specific "age" of accountability, but it does hint at the "condition" of accountability related to a certain level of maturity (cf. Isa. 7:15-16). The Jews commonly have a Bar Mitzvah for boys at age 13. At that point, they are considered mature enough to answer for themselves and be morally accountable. As a child, Jesus "*grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom*" (Lk. 2:40), but then at age 12 we find Him in the temple astounding the teachers (cf. Lk. 2:46-47). Faith, as mentioned here in reference to Moses, relates to him having come of age.

Moses chose to side with the people of God. He refused to identify with the royal family of Pharaoh and instead chose to identify with God's people and the SUFFERING involved. This involved a definite faith commitment to God. A faith commitment is about **IDENTIFICATION!** Who you identify with relates to your faith. This **identification** was the fruit of true FAITH!

Moses was brought up in the context of privilege. He could have savored "the good life" and not taken his stand with the people of God. That would have been to "*enjoy the passing pleasures of sin.*" But true faith makes the HARD CHOICE to identify with the suffering associated with being God's people. It is committed. It takes a stand with God's people.

When it says, "*esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt,*" the word "**esteeming**" literally means "**to give careful thought**". He weighed it carefully. He counted the cost (cf. Lk. 14:26-33). This is the essence of true faith that pleases God (Heb. 11:6). Moses' faith involved a level of maturity, identifying with God's people, being willing to suffer, and counting the cost. This is the nature of a true saving faith!

By way of application, this is what water baptism portrays. It portrays a serious commitment! The essence of baptism is **IDENTIFICATION**. We identify with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. And in doing so, we identify with God and His family. In the book of Acts, when people were baptized, they then continued on with God's family (cf. Acts 2:42).

This **identification** had ramifications regarding God and His people. To belong to God is to belong to His family. To identify with Christ is to identify with all those in Christ. You really can't separate God and His people (cf. Acts 9:4). To belong to one is to belong to the other! That is why John says that we know we have passed from death unto life because we love the brethren (cf. 1 Jn. 3:14). The fruit of a true saving faith is that it IDENTIFIES with God and His people! This is the "Faith Example" of Moses!

Thot: "*We live what we believe; the rest is religious talk.*" - **Vance Havner**

Earnestly Contending, Pastor Dwight J. Oswald