



This chapter is filled, rather conspicuously, with individuals whose "faith careers" included many low points. Verse 29, in particular, stands out because of that generation's spectacular (and comprehensive) failure of faith (1 Cor. 10:5, Heb. 3-4). So how can a group of people known mostly for their lack of faith be included in a Hall of Fame Of Faith?

The answer is that a typical hall of fame takes exceptional people with amazing careers and places them on a pedestal. They stand as paragons – "I could never do that!" we say in response to eye-popping stats and achievements.

The men and women of Hebrews 11 are not being held up as having matchless careers of faith, but as displaying great faith in specific circumstances. "By faith, \_\_\_\_\_ did something" is the model from beginning to end.

Rather than making idols of these men and women, the Hebrew writer is showing how IMPERFECT people (like us and them) can do AMAZING things. Their achievements can be OUR achievements.



