

"The Better Sacrifice"

Part 8

Hebrews 9:12-10:39

Introduction: Tonight in our study of Hebrews we are again looking at the 3 exhortations given to the Hebrew believers in Hebrews 10:22-25.

Notice Hebrews 10:22-25

Three times the writers uses the words "LET US". So we are looking closely at each of these exhortations given here. Last week we looked at the first exhortation:

1. **Let us draw near.**

Tonight we are going to look at the 2nd exhortation.

2. **Let us hold fast.**

Notice Hebrews 10:23a

Here in this verse there is much for us to consider. The exhortation could also read, "Let us hold fast the CONFESSIOIN OF OUR HOPE". We need to first of all understand this in the proper text, and then we can apply it to our own lives. I remind you again that this is written to a group of Hebrew believers who were under persecution for their conversion from Judaism to Christianity. Because of the pressure they were feeling, they were contemplating going back to Judaism. Here in this verse the writer is exhorting them to hold fast to their HOPE which they have in Jesus Christ.

The word FAITH/HOPE here can be defined as *"the desire to obtain something with the expectation of receiving it."*

These believers were in the midst of a spiritual battle or we could say a spiritual storm, and the winds of enemy were blowing furiously. They needed to HOLD FAST to the HOPE which they had in Jesus Christ. Their HOPE in Christ was the anchor that would keep them from drifting in the midst of the battle. No matter how difficult it became they were to HOLD FAST.

Application:

This verse fits so very well in the times in which we live in today. There is a great increase in demonic activity today because of the restraints of God being removed from our nation. So we can be sure that as we stand for the Truth of God's Word, we are going to come under attack just as these Hebrew believers also came under attack.

2 Timothy 3:12

¹² Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

Now as targets of the enemy, we can be sure that one of our enemy's desires is to cause us to let go of the Anchor of Hope, so that we will then begin to drift. You see he would love to get us to drift from the Truth and then lay hold on the lies of the world. We know this is true because we can see churches today that are trading the Truth of God's Word for the lies of the Devil. There are churches today that at one time stood very strong upon the Truth of God's Word; but now they have compromised in their stand, and they have adopted the doctrines of the Devil.

So let me explain to you what it is that we must do in order to HOLD FAST the profession of our faith/hope.

1. **We must be grounded in the Word of God.**

Ephesians 4:11-14

¹¹ And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

¹³ Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

¹⁴ That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

God has placed gifted men in the church to teach the Bible so that the saints will be perfected in their faith, and the end result will be that the church will be strengthened and prepared for the attacks of the enemy.

2. **We must seek the wisdom of God for decisions which we face, and then we must trust God when He gives us directions for our lives.**

We can be sure that in the midst of the increase of demonic activity, we will be faced with many decisions, and we will need the wisdom of God. His wisdom is needed so we do not make the wrong decision and expose ourselves to the ways of the enemy.

James 1:2-8

² *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;*

³ *Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*

⁴ *But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*

⁵ *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*

⁶ *But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.*

⁷ *For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.*

⁸ *A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.*

Now let me pull this together for our lives. We must be determined before the attacks ever come that we are going to HOLD FAST our profession of faith/hope. If we wait until the pressure and the heat come, we will sure compromise our stand. So as our society sinks deeper into the darkness, we must get our minds set to HOLD FAST, and this will happen as we saturate our minds with the Word of God. Then as the pressures of life come upon us, we can look to God for the wisdom we need. Now James tells us that we must ask in faith NOTHING WAVING. This means that when we know the will of God for the decisions we must make, we do not question His answer, but we must walk through the open door. Too many believers seek the will of God, and when God's will is revealed, they question how it can possibly work and so they waver. This is a double minded person, and James tells us they are unstable in all their ways.

Notice Hebrews 10:23a again.

We are to HOLD FAST our profession of faith/hope without wavering. So we come here and we learn more and more about the HOPE we have in Christ and so we determine that no matter how great the pressure, we will not abandon our HOPE in Christ.

Notice Hebrews 10:23

At the end of this verse the writer inserts a parenthesis to back up the exhortation. The word "for" introduces the reason why they can Hold Fast to their faith/hope in the Lord.

The reason they do not need to doubt/worry is because He is faithful who has promised. This statement points to the complete reliability of our Lord.

This is a verse we could spend weeks on, but we shall limit our study to just tonight. I want to take some time and consider God's faithfulness in the context of how it is presented here. These Hebrew believers needed to know that God is faithful to all of His promises. We also need to be reminded of God's faithfulness to us in the midst of the high pressure situations of life.

Let us start with the promises we have seen in our study in 2 Corinthians.

2 Corinthians 1:3-5

³ *Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;*

⁴ *Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.*

⁵ *For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.*

There are 3 promises here that are very important for us in the midst of pressure:

1. God is the God of ALL comfort/strength.
2. He DOES comfort/strengthen us in ALL our tribulation.
3. The comfort/strength is always equal to the pressure we face.

Then there are the promises found in Romans 8.

1. **The sufferings of this life cannot be compared with the glory which will be revealed in us.**

Romans 8:16-18

¹⁶ *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:*

¹⁷ *And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

¹⁸ *For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

2. **God uses every situation in our lives for our benefit.**

Romans 8:28

²⁸ *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

²⁹ *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

3. **There is NOTHING that can separate us from the love and the protection of God.**

Romans 8:31-39

³¹ *What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?*

³² *He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?*

³³ *Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.*

³⁴ *Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.*

³⁵ *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

³⁶ *As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.*

³⁷ *Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*

³⁸ *For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,*

³⁹ *Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

We can then look to the Scriptures, and we can see examples of how God provided for His people in the midst of pressure situations:

- a. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego when they were thrown into the fiery furnace.
- b. Daniel when he was tossed into the lion's den.
- c. Joseph as he was tested for 13 years before he became the Prime Minister of Egypt.
- d. Moses as he led Israel through the wilderness for 40 years.
- e. Joshua at the age of 89 as he was called to lead Israel after Moses died.
- f. David as he faced Goliath.

- g. Abraham and Sarah at the ages of 90 and 100 who were able to have a son.

The list would go on and on, but the point is that we can clearly see that God has always been faithful to His people.

Let me now get us back to the thought. We must HOLD FAST to the HOPE that we have in Christ no matter how difficult life becomes. To encourage each other to HOLD FAST, we must remind one another that God is faithful.

John Bunyan, author of The Pilgrim's Progress, once wrote that when Christians begin to lose communion with God, one of the first things forgotten is that they live in God's very presence and their lives are in God's hands.

We must be sure to stay in communion with our Lord if we are going to HOLD FAST. Let me show you what Jesus said in John 15.

John 15:1-5, 10-11

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

² *Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*

³ *Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.*

⁴ *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*

⁵ *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

¹⁰ *If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.*

¹¹ *These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.*

Conclusion:

We can stand in the face of every attack and hold fast our faith/hope, and we will never be sorry.

Romans 5:1-5

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

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² *By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

³ *And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;*

⁴ *And patience, experience; and experience, hope:*

⁵ ***And hope maketh not ashamed**; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*