



## INTRODUCTION

Hebrews 10:19-25

*"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering for he who promised is faithful" (Heb. 10:23).*

Yesterday we saw that given the great truths about Christ's superiority and His high priesthood, there can be no other response other than to draw near Him with assurance and confidence (Heb. 10:22). When we see the majesty and faithfulness of Christ we can do nothing less than come near to God through Him during every season of our life.

However, it is not enough to draw near to Him. Today's passage tells us that we must also hold fast to the confession of our hope (v. 23). We must not worship God silently and in secret, but must also display our allegiance to Him publicly. Here we see the close connection between true faith and outward practice that is highlighted on every page of the Bible. It is not enough to be silent and think that we have true faith if no one ever knows about it. Rather, true faith is only true faith if we believe in our hearts and confess with our lips (Rom. 10:9). As John Calvin tells us about this verse: "[God] requires also profession or confession, for it is not true faith except it shows itself before men."

Our confession is "the confession of our hope" (Heb. 10:23). Our society often uses the word hope as a euphemism for wishful thinking or to express a longing for the impossible. But this is not what we mean when we speak of Christian hope. Christian hope alone is worthy of the term hope. For it is a true confidence that God will fulfill all His promises — a true confidence that all will be renewed. It is something that we know will happen because we have experienced the first-fruits of salvation. In contrast to our society, we say that hope is only actual hope if we have sufficient reason to believe that the things for which we hope will come to pass.

Christians alone have true hope because the one who makes such promises to us is faithful (v. 23). The faithfulness of His Word and His activity through history give us the basis for our hope and confidence that God will do all that He promises. Because of this faithfulness, we too must be faithful to Him. We must hold to our confession "without wavering." We must resolve to walk with Him in faith despite doubts that might arise. We must resolve to look to Him alone for salvation. We must cling to Jesus and to nothing else.

Coram Deo

Many of us can find places in our lives where we do not hold fast to our confession. Maybe our workplaces, families, or friends pressure us to be silent about our faith. If you are in a situation where you are not holding fast to your confession, pray that He would give you the necessary boldness and then do what is required to stand for Him.<sup>1</sup>

**Watch It**  Bible Principles

Watch Bible Principles #15; Heb. 10:19-25 [www.villagebible.church/bibleprinciples](http://www.villagebible.church/bibleprinciples)

<sup>1</sup> Devotional from Ligonier Ministries found @ <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/hold-fast/>. All rights reserved



## Apply it

### Don't Stop Believin'

*Over and over again, from various angles, the author of Hebrews presents evidence that Jesus is superior as our High Priest. No other priest could fling open the door to heaven for sinners. No other person could qualify as the Mediator between a holy God and an unholy humanity. No pious person could live up to the precise demands of the Law. No sacrifice could completely pay the price for sin and cancel the debt of sinners. Only Jesus. This point has been stated and restated in Hebrews. Now the emphasis shifts again from Christ's superiority to our responsibility. In strong and somber terms, the writer looks into his readers' eyes and says, "No matter how you look at it, the person and work of Christ is superior to everything. Now, here's what you need to do about it." At this point, the proof of Christ's primacy and the reality of our responsibility are so overwhelming that the implications are clear: If we don't trust and obey Him entirely, we're in big trouble.<sup>2</sup>*

- 6. It has been said that right behavior comes from right beliefs. In what ways do the truths of Hebrews 8 & 9 lead you to holy living?**

- 7. What is the confession of your hope? Why is it imperative that you not lose this confession?**

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<sup>2</sup> Swindoll, Charles R.. Insights on Hebrews (Swindoll's Living Insights New Testament Commentary Book 12) (pp. 155-156). Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.. Kindle Edition.

*Thus to recap our new position in Christ, the author emphasizes these two vital truths: We now have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus. We have a great priest over the house of God. He proceeds to apply our position to our practice.<sup>3</sup>*

- 8. What does it mean to hold fast to this without wavering? Why must your holding fast be both personal devotion and public witness?**

*On the basis of these assurances—that we have boldness to enter because we have a living High Priest—we have an “open invitation” to enter the presence of God. The old covenant high priest visited the Holy of Holies once a year, but we are invited to dwell in the presence of God every moment of each day. What a tremendous privilege!<sup>4</sup>*

- 9. How confident are you when it comes to drawing near to God in full assurance of faith? What faith struggles are you struggling with right now? How does this passage give you hope?**

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<sup>3</sup> Sermon excerpt from Steve Cole found @ <https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-29-putting-your-position-practice-hebrews-1019-25>

<sup>4</sup> Wiersbe, Warren W.. Be Confident (Hebrews): Live by Faith, Not by Sight (The BE Series Commentary) (p. 135). David C Cook. Kindle Edition.

## **“What I Needed”**

*Under the old covenant, when priests were consecrated they were sprinkled with blood (Exodus 29: 21). Also, when the old covenant began, the people had been sprinkled with blood (Exodus 24: 8). But with the new covenant, when the people of this Hebrew church came to faith, their hearts were inwardly “sprinkled” with Christ’s blood to cleanse them “from an evil conscience” (cf. 9: 14). For the first time in their lives the guilt was completely gone, and their conscience rested easy. Then they were baptized and their “bodies washed with pure water”— an outward, visible sign of the inner sprinkling or cleansing.<sup>5</sup>*

**10. Why is blood so central to your salvation? What can happen when we “sterilize” or “clean up” this aspect of our salvation?**

**11. How is baptism a great picture of the new cleansing Christ brings his children? While baptism is incapable of saving people how can fulfilling this command of Christ strengthen one’s confession and hope?**

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<sup>5</sup> Hughes, R. Kent. *Hebrews (2 volumes in 1 / ESV Edition) (Preaching the Word) (Kindle Locations 4476–4480)*. Crossway. Kindle Edition.

## **“Open Arms”**

*The author shifts to the present in verse 24. Here he stresses Christian fellowship and the church's role in helping believers persevere until the end. We cannot have confidence and full assurance of faith apart from the church. We cannot endure in isolation. Each Christian desperately needs the body of believers for encouragement. To obtain assurance, we need continual reminding from other saints. Christ calls his followers to bring out the best in each other. Believers must actively and verbally stir up one another to love and good works. An unhealthy church fails to do this. Unfortunately, some churches bring out the worst in their attendees rather than the best.<sup>6</sup>*

### **Key Word #1**

**Consider** (*katanoeo*): *the mind attentively fixed on “one another,” contemplating with continual consideration the characters and wants of our brethren, so as to render mutual help and counsel.*

**12. Why is it imperative for believers to be looking out for each other? What do you want your fellow small group members to “consider” about you? How can this enhance your fellowship?**

### **Key Word #2**

**Stir Up** (*paroxusmos*): *is a strong word which literally means to sharpen. It is literally a jab given to someone so they “must” respond.*

**13. Why is the ministry of stirring up necessary in a church? How can this be done badly? What happens when this is done in a biblically proper way?**

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<sup>6</sup> Mohler, R. Albert. *Exalting Jesus in Hebrews (Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary)* (p. 158). B&H Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

14. *What love and good works have you spurred in the lives of those around you? How did you go about doing this?*

**Key Word #3**

**Neglecting** (*egkataleipo*): *refers to a usual or customary manner of behavior, habit, pattern of behavior which is more or less fixed by tradition or the usual practice.*

15. **Why do believers have a need for the church? What does it offer to you that you cannot get anywhere else? How does the local church help you endure in the faith and hold on to your confession?**

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer in his book Life Together says*

*“The physical presence of other Christians is a source of incomparable joy and strength to the believer.”*

**“Any Way You Want It”**

**16. We live in a time and place that we can “tune in” to a variety of churches and preachers. Why is it important that you settle in a local church instead of just listening and watching services and sermons from other places that you are physically unable to attend and participate?**

**17. In what ways could you use some “spurring on to love and good works”? Share these with your group so that they might help you in this endeavor?**