

Faith that Endures

(Online Study, Tuesday Evening at 7:00 PM)

Lesson 8: Encouraging One Another to Endure-- Hebrews 10:23-25

The letter to the Hebrews was written to Christians who were tired. They had believed, they had suffered for it, and they had endured the loss of property and the shame of public abuse. But the pressure had not lifted, and some of them were beginning to drift back toward the old life that had been so much easier. The writer has spent nine chapters showing them that Jesus is better: a better priest, a better sacrifice, a better covenant. Now, having established what Christ has done, he turns and tells them what to do about it.

What follows is one of the most practical passages in the New Testament about endurance, and its answer is not what we expect. He does not tell them to try harder or to believe more sincerely. He gives three commands, and two of the three are about other people. Hold fast the confession of our hope. Consider how to stir up one another to love and good works. Do not neglect to meet together, but encourage one another. The strategy for enduring is not private resolve. It is a congregation of struggling people deliberately holding on to each other.

Notice the word “consider” in verse 24. Encouragement in this passage is not an accident or a mood. It is something Christians think about in advance, plan for, and aim at a particular person. And notice the reason given in verse 25: “all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” The nearer we come to the end, the more we need each other, not less. Faith that endures is not something we manage alone, and God never asked us to.

Group Discussion: The writer’s answer to Christians who were tired of enduring was not “try harder” but “stir up one another.” Why do we instinctively treat endurance as a private struggle, and what does this passage say we are missing when we do?

Personal Reflection: Who has actually helped you keep going in your faith, and what did they do? Is there someone whose endurance currently depends, in part, on encouragement only you are positioned to give?

Read Hebrews 10:23-25

Study Questions

1. In verse 23, the writer says, “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering.” What is this confession, and what does it mean to hold it fast without wavering?
2. Verse 23 grounds that command in a reason: “for he who promised is faithful.” Why does the writer point to God’s faithfulness rather than to our own determination as the basis for endurance?
3. In verse 24, the writer says to “consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.” What does the word “consider” suggest about how deliberate encouragement must be?

4. The phrase “stir up” is a strong one, carrying the idea of provoking or spurring someone. What does it mean to provoke another Christian toward love and good works, and how is that different from simply being nice to them?
5. Verse 25 warns against “neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some.” Why does the writer connect the assembly so directly to endurance?
6. What does the phrase “as is the habit of some” reveal about the way people drift away, and why is drifting so much more common than a deliberate decision to quit?
7. The command is not merely to attend but to be “encouraging one another.” What does biblical encouragement actually look like, and how is it more than compliments or general friendliness?
8. The writer adds, “and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” What is the Day, and why should its approach make us more urgent about encouraging one another rather than less?
9. How does this passage challenge the idea that a person’s faith is a private matter between himself and God?
10. Looking at Hebrews 10:23–25 as a whole, what does this passage teach about the part other Christians play in helping a believer endure to the end?

Now or Later

Reflect on these passages: Hebrews 3:12–14 — Exhort one another every day, lest anyone be hardened; Ecclesiastes 4:9–12 — Two are better than one, and a threefold cord is not quickly broken; 1 Thessalonians 5:11 — Encourage one another and build one another up