

## *Trusting God When It Hurts* *Hebrews 10:32-39*

### INTRO:

Trusting God is never easy. We think we are doing well trusting Him when everything is going well. However, when trouble comes, then trusting becomes more difficult. The Writer of the Hebrews recognized this and that is why he wrote this last paragraph in chapter 10. He wanted the Hebrews and us to learn how to trust God when it hurts. We trust God by remembering how He delivered us in the past and holding fast to the reality of who He is so we can trust in the present.

#### *I. Remembering (v. 32-34)*

#### *II. Holding On (v. 35-39)*

#### *I. Remembering (v. 32-34)*

A. On the heels of his warning, the writer calls upon his readers to remember what happened right after they were converted.

**v.32** *“But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings.”*

1. Although the persecution from the Roman Empire would not come until much later, many new believers in the early church faced severe persecution.

2. We read of some of the early persecutions in the early chapters of **Acts** when the Jewish leaders forbade the Apostles and Christians to preach in the name of Christ. To follow the Lord in baptism meant severing your ties to Judaism and to be rejected by family and friends.

B. The writer then adds some detail to the content of their struggles in the past. We read in **verses 33-34**;

*“Partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated; for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods.”*

1. Their trials were threefold. First they were made a public spectacle through reproaches and distress or affliction. We are not told specifically what this suffering and reproach was, but it was significant. They were held up to public scorn.

2. They were partners with those who were also treated this way. They suffered themselves and they suffered in feeling for those who also were mistreated. In describing the nature of the church Paul wrote in **1 Corinthians 12:26**;

***“And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.”***

3. They joyfully accepted having their possessions taken. Authorities took the believers’ private property from them. Still they persisted in their joy in the Lord. How could they do this? He tells us in the next sentence.

C. This sentence serves two purposes. It explains why they could endure such terrible suffering with joy. It tells us why the writer wanted to tap into those memories. You did this (v.34) ***“knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven.”***

1. The writer wanted them to hold on to now, the truth they fell back on then. He wanted them once again to take hold of this assurance they know that they have a better and eternal possession waiting for them. How real is eternity to us? Can we focus on it like Paul did in **2 Corinthians 4:16-18?**

***“Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”***

2. The writer wanted to tap into that conviction in their hearts and to make them remember how real that was to them in the midst of their suffering. Having held on to that reality once, they needed to take hold of it again!

## ***II. Holding On (v. 35-39)***

A. Reaching back to this certainty which strengthened them in the past, the writer says v.35 ***“Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.”***

1. We came across this word, ***“confidence”*** several times in this book. Let me just quote one example,

**Hebrews 3:6** ***“But Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.”***

All of the references in Hebrews have to do with our confidence in our standing in Christ.

2. Our confidence is the root of our ***“knowing that we have a better and abiding possession.” (v.34)***. The writer exhorts us, don’t throw away your confidence.

**Hebrews 6:18-19** ***“That by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold***

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***of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil.”***

Once more take hold of the rope attached to the anchor that is anchored in the person of Christ and don't let go.

B. Having exhorted them, he now encourages them. First, in **verse 36**, he tells them to stick by the stuff.

**v.36** ***“For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise.”***

They have need of hupomone, spiritual tenacity, to persist and keep on in the face of the trial so that once they have done the will of God, they may receive the promise. The only thing that can keep us from possessing the blessing is if we give up and quit holding on to the promises.

C. Second, he underlines the promises to which we cling. He quotes from Habakkuk here.

**v.37-38** ***“For yet a little while, and He who is coming will come and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.”***

The righteous one will live by faith, while the one who will be lost gives up his faith and returns to the old life when trouble comes.

D. Third, the writer underlines where he believes these folks are spiritually. They are those who believe and hold fast to the truth to the saving of their souls. They are not of those who fall away to destruction.

What does all of this say to us? We must learn this first lesson well. When we are facing uncertain and difficult times, there is profit in remembering what God has brought us through in the past. Remember the Ebenezer principle. He who brought us this far is not about to drop us now!

We also learn here how real eternal things must become to us. We will never stand fast in the truth if we do not believe what God has said and what God has promised. The reality of the unseen truth allows us to persist in the face of trial. The unseen reality made Paul keep on, keeping on. It will be for us, also.

*“It is His will that I should cast My care on Him each day;  
He also bids me not to cast My confidence away.  
But oh! how foolishly I act When taken unaware,  
I cast away my confidence and carry all my care.”*