

WALKING IN FAITHFULNESS

HEBREWS 3:7-19

¹ Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, ² who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house. ³ For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses -- as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. ⁴ (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) ⁵ Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, ⁶ but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

⁷ Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear his voice, ⁸ do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, ⁹ where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years. ¹⁰ Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways.' ¹¹ As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall not enter my rest.'"

¹² Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. ¹³ But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴ For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. ¹⁵ As it is said, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion." ¹⁶ For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? ¹⁷ And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? ¹⁸ And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? ¹⁹ So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

A Really Important "IF" (v.6, v.14):

- This "if" is about _____ not _____.
- God's people put their _____ in God.
- This "if" looks to the _____ but relies on the _____. (v.14)

*We **have come** (past tense) to share in Christ, **if indeed** (future tense) we hold our original confidence firm to the end.*

Holding our original confidence to the end (continuing to trust in Christ) will prove to us that we DID trust in Christ to begin with.

Not holding fast to our salvation to the end doesn't mean that we lose our salvation; it means we never had it to begin with. It shows we were never truly saved.

- The entire book of Hebrews is an encouragement to Christians to _____ their _____ of salvation in Christ.

HEBREWS 2:1 Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.

HEBREWS 3:6 And we are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

HEBREWS 3:14 For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

HEBREWS 6:11-12 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

HEBREWS 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

HEBREWS 10:35 Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.

HEBREWS 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.

The encouragement here is to stay faithful to Christ until the end!

A few things to know about walking in faithfulness:

- **A _____ on Jesus encourages us towards faithfulness.**
 - A clear, truthful and healthy view of Jesus.
 - **Faithfulness involves _____ obedience based on our trust in God.**
 - The more we trust in God, the more we'll choose to obey Him. The less we trust in God, the less we'll choose to obey Him.
 - **Sin and unbelief _____ faithfulness.**
 - **The faithful persevere in _____ to the end.**
 - **We _____ each other! (Exhort one another!)**
- **Growing in obedience to God happens in the mundane experiences of life over a long period of time, often without immediate gratification for our effort.**

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- This "if" is about being not doing.
- God's people put their hope in God.
- This "if" looks to the future but relies on the past. (v.14)

*We **have come** (past tense) to share in Christ, **if indeed** (future tense) we hold our original confidence firm to the end.*

Holding our original confidence to the end (continuing to trust in Christ) will prove to us that we DID trust in Christ to begin with.

Not holding fast to our salvation to the end doesn't mean that we lose our salvation; it means we never had it to begin with. It shows we were never truly saved.

- **The entire book of Hebrews is an encouragement to Christians to fight to maintain their strong assurance of salvation in Christ.**

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A few things to know about walking in faithfulness:

- **A healthy focus on Jesus encourages us towards faithfulness.**
 - A clear, truthful and healthy view of Jesus.
 - **Faithfulness involves CHOOSING obedience based on our trust in God.**
 - The more we trust in God, the more we'll choose to obey Him. The less we trust in God, the less we'll choose to obey Him.
 - **Sin and unbelief hinder faithfulness.**
 - **The faithful persevere in commitment to the end.**
 - **We need each other! (Exhort one another!)**
- **Growing in obedience to God happens in the mundane experiences of life over a long period of time, often without immediate gratification for our effort.**