

Spiritual Growth Questions for October 25, 2020

(take one question each day and grow deeper in Bible study)

Opener: Recall the early days of your Christianity. What were they like? How was your zeal different then from what it is now?

1. **Read Hebrews 10:32-34.** What sufferings did this Hebrew church go through? Why is this important for them to remember? What specific sufferings have you experienced in the past that can help you endure your present trials? .
2. In what ways do you see culture mistreating and misrepresenting Christians in the public square? In what situations have you seen Christians being shamed for identifying with Christ in a fallen world? Have you experienced similar instances?
3. **Read Hebrews 10:35-39.** Look closely at what this passage says about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and mankind. Why does it matter? Do you believe it? What does it mean for you? What will you do about it?
4. **Compare Hebrews 10:39 with Matthew 16:25-26.** What connections do you see? What promises can be claimed? What does this look like for you right now?
5. Where do we see hopelessness in our society today? What do we as Christians have to offer people without hope? How can we reach such people with our message?

Scripture: Read the passage three times with an open heart and ask the Lord Jesus to speak to you.

Observation: Write down what you see in this passage. Make as many observations as you can.

Application: Write down how you will be different because of what you have just read. Look for lessons to be learned, examples to be followed and promises to be enjoyed. How is Jesus revealed?

Prayer: Write out a short prayer.

II. **Read the following scriptures: Habakkuk 2:1-4 & 3:17-19.** Read both passages and apply the S.O.A.P. study method. How could these verses be used to help us face anything that may come our way?

Prayer: Lord, please give me eyes to see the temporary nature of this life. Help me to not shrink back from publicly confessing the hope I have in You. May I depend on God's past and present faithfulness to help me in my future trials. Have my focus be on expressing my faith in Jesus and in Him alone. Jesus, may your light shine through me this week!

Better with Jesus: A Study of the Book of Hebrews
Moving Forward Part Two; Embrace Endurance
Hebrews 10:32-39 October 25, 2020
Pastor John Lloyd

The book of Hebrews presents the greatness of Christ like no other New Testament writing. The author knew that by remembering and lifting up Jesus, he would help the readers endure their difficult circumstances. As this book is read, it demands a response. Today we consider the theme 'moving forward' found in Hebrews 10:32-39. In order to live this way, some things in our lives need to be avoided, remembered or held onto and embraced. Pray that we would continue growing closer to Jesus and reflecting His great love. By God's grace, let's move forward to what lies ahead!

Hebrews 10:32 But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. 34 For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. 35 Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. 37 For, yet a little while and the coming one will come and will not delay; 38 but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him. 39 But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

Big Idea: God keeps us moving forward by revealing what to avoid, what to remember, what to hold onto and embrace. I am reaching forward to what lies ahead.

Key Questions: What do I need to embrace? How can God help me with the trials that I am facing right now?

I. Remember God's _____ to His people.

Hebrews 10:32 But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings,

Recall/call to remembrance – call over again and again in your mind.

Hard struggle – *athletis*, speaks of athletic contest or combat.

The reason for this encouragement is twofold. First, they will be challenged by their own past character. Second, they will be faced afresh with the power of God to sustain and deliver them. Kent Hughes.

A. Remember the power of _____.

Hebrews 10:33 sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. 34 For you had compassion on those in prison,

Exposed – theatrizo (theatre) to set forth as a spectacle/expose to contempt.

To reproach – to revile to, cast in one's teeth. It is used of unjust reproach.

Partners – koinonia, co-sharers.

Hebrews 13:3 Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.

Acts 5:41 Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.

I am **willing to identify publicly with Christ and his body.**
Jesus conquered death and suffering!

B. Remember the power of _____.

Hebrews 10:34b and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one.

Matthew 6:20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

2 Corinthians 4:17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Hebrews 10:35 Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. (Hebrews 11:26)

2 Corinthians 4:17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Our Response: Read Psalm 106 and look at God's faithfulness to His people. Spend some time recalling His faithfulness to you. Write your own Psalm 106.

I am reaching FORWARD to what lies ahead!

II. Hold onto Christ's faithfulness in the _____ times.

Hebrews 10:36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.

Endurance – To remain under in difficult circumstances.

Hebrews 10:37 For, yet a little while and the coming one will come and will not delay; 38 but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him. 39 But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

Shrinks back- shrinks back due to fear.

Habakkuk 2:3 For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay.

4 Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith.

The opposite of apostasy is faith!

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

Habakkuk 3:17 Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, 18 yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. 19 God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places.

Reflective questions: What is called for concerning my progress in the faith? Warning? A reminder of the past? A promise of reward? All three?

Our Response: The key to perseverance and moving forward is faith. Whatever the future may hold, we can depend on God's faithfulness to see us through.

Depending on God's faithfulness keeps us moving forward.

We are continually saved by faith In Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord!

I am reaching FORWARD to what lies ahead!