



9/30/26

Hebrews 10:32-39

Happy last day of September and first day of the women's study, Truth and Lies. I'm praying the Lord will do a transforming work in our lives as we root out the lies we've believed and embrace the truth that God has for us. I hope to see you there! If you haven't registered, you're still welcome to come.

*Blessings,
Jonna*

In 1 Thessalonians 2:14, Paul spoke of how the believers of this Kingdom Outpost "suffered the same things... as the other believers did." Truly, to follow Christ means that we WILL be going against the grain of those who don't know Him. John said in 1 John 3:13, "Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you." 1 Peter 4:12 says, "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you." I don't know if there's a New Testament letter that DOESN'T speak of some kind of suffering. The book of Hebrews also speaks of remaining confident in our faith in the midst of suffering.

Vs. 32-33 ~ "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."

The author of Hebrews reminded the believers of those days that they personally faced conflict for their faith in Christ, once they had been "enlightened." They knew when they turned to Jesus that they would face struggle and affliction, though at that point they had not faced execution for their faith.

They either had personally experienced it or they had known another believer who experienced it. They knew that no one was exempt from being reviled and mocked publicly. Cancel culture has always been a thing. There is nothing new under the sun.

Vs. 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."

They were compassionate toward those who were thrown into prison for their faith. They didn't assume that they deserved it. They didn't separate themselves from those people. They actually considered it a joy when their own property was plundered, probably remembering Jesus' words in Matthew 5:11-12, "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on My account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you." They knew that their reward was great in heaven.

They had an eternal perspective. They knew this world was broken, and they didn't expect easy and comfortable while they were here. They looked forward to the hope of heaven. This is a big deal. Do I expect heaven on earth? Do I expect my circumstances to be easy and comfortable? Do I consider it a privilege to face whatever trials God allows me to go through if it means I can honor Him? O Lord, please make it so. My natural first thought when difficulty comes is to question Your goodness. I am learning to turn to You faster in that... but I'd really love it if it would not even cross my mind! I want to trust You completely!

Vs. 35-36 ~ "Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised."

What do I need when facing affliction, struggle, and suffering? I need confidence. Trust. Faith that God won't leave me in it, but that He'll sustain me through it.

Let me NOT throw away my confidence. Let me remember the coming reward. God has PROMISED reward. He WILL give it. He HAS to, because He never breaks a promise.

I throw away my confidence when I forget that God has said suffering will come... when I forget the suffering Jesus endured on the cross with joy so that my suffering would only be temporary. O Lord, please help me to remember what You endured for me!

Vs. 37-39 ~ "For, 'Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but My righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him.' But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls."

Here's the reward we wait for with confidence... the Lord is going to come for us. He's waiting for the fulfillment of His plan to be completed, and then... without delay... the Bridegroom will come for His bride. Just as we anticipate our wedding day when we're engaged, we can live in confidence and anticipation of that day when He comes for us.

Until that day, we need to endure because this world is broken, and our time of waiting will be filled with struggle and trials. But we don't endure without hope. We have the promise that our waiting will not be wasted.

While we wait, we're called to live by faith. Why by faith and not by sight? What we see is not the full picture of what's happening, and if we only go by what we see, we will be discouraged and shrink back. Hebrews 11:6 says that "without faith it is impossible to please God." Living by faith as we wait for God to fulfill His promises pleases Him. Withdrawing from Him because of doubt does not please Him. How could it?

If I pull away from my husband and ignore him, how could he possibly be pleased with me? If he pulled away from me, how could I be pleased with him? I would grieve what our relationship was missing? The beautiful thing for me is that God never withdraws from me. He never shrinks back from me, though if anyone had the right to shrink away, it would be Him! May I never shrink away or withdraw from Him. Let the things I see only drive me closer to Him... but let the motivation of my heart not be rooted in what I see, but in Who I believe, Jesus Christ.

The writer of Hebrews said with confidence. "We're not of those who shrink back and are destroyed." Who are those who shrink back and are destroyed? Those who have no real relationship with God, who don't walk by faith. These people may go to church, but they don't know God personally. They have not entered into salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit has not sealed them for the day of redemption. They never pursued God's word for transformation, but only for information... looking to what they could get, but not looking to the One who already gave His life for us.

Let me never forget the importance of fixing my eyes on what I cannot see rather than what I can see. Just as the appearance of Jesus' betrayal, arrest, and crucifixion would have made things look hopeless, but then prove to be the greatest hope that exists... I can trust that the appearance of my circumstances never tells the whole story.

O Lord, please help me to keep my eyes fixed on You. Help me to endure the trials of life with confidence as I look to the eternal reward waiting for me... life with You forever. Amen.