**Perseverance: Pressing On in the Power of Christ: The Call to Endure**

**Text:** Hebrews 10:32–39  
**Theme:** Faith that endures is rooted in confidence and obedience.

**Introduction**

* Life often brings moments when we feel like giving up—at work, school, or in our faith.
* The Book of Hebrews speaks to believers in this exact situation.
  + They began strong but faced opposition, persecution, and fatigue.
  + The writer urges them: *don’t shrink back—press forward.*
* **Key Verse:** *“We are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls” (v. 39).*

**Faith that endures:**

* Looks **back** at God’s faithfulness.
* Looks **forward** to God’s reward.
* Obeys **now**, trusting God’s will today.

**I. Remember Your Past Faithfulness (vv. 32–34)**

**A. Reflect on your early days of faith**

* The original readers endured hardship, public insults, imprisonment, and even loss of property for following Christ.
* They did so joyfully—why?  
  → Because they knew they had *“a better and lasting possession.”*

**B. Why remember?**

* **Memory fuels endurance**:
  + Past trials remind us of God’s sustaining grace.
  + Past obedience proves our faith is genuine.
* **Illustration:** Like David remembering the lion and bear before facing Goliath, our past victories prepare us for present battles.

**C. Application**

* Recall moments when God:
  + Answered your prayers.
  + Gave you courage.
  + Carried you through difficulty.
* Remembering your journey builds confidence for today’s challenges.

**II. Reaffirm Your Reward (v. 35)**

**A. Don’t throw away your confidence**

* Confidence in Christ brings **a great reward**.
* Trials can shake our assurance, but God calls us to hold fast.

**B. The reward explained**

* Not earthly comfort, but:
  + **Eternal life**.
  + **God’s presence**.
  + **An imperishable inheritance** (1 Peter 1:4).

**C. Why it matters**

* Eternal reward gives perspective:
  + Like a marathon runner pushing to the finish line.
  + Like a student enduring finals for graduation.
* The hope of glory empowers us to press on through suffering (Romans 8:18).

**D. Application**

* Preach to yourself: “The best is yet to come.”
* Let this future hope sustain your present faith.

**III. Recommit to God’s Will (vv. 36–39)**

**A. Obedience now leads to reward later**

* Enduring faith is active:
  + It trusts God *and* keeps doing His will.
* Verse 36: “You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised.”

**B. What does recommitment look like?**

* A deliberate choice to follow Christ daily.
* Choosing obedience over comfort, even under pressure.

**C. Endurance and Jesus’ return**

* vv. 37–38 quote Habakkuk 2:
  + “He who is coming will come…”
  + “My righteous one will live by faith.”
* We live by faith in the waiting, knowing Christ’s return is certain.

**D. Warning and assurance**

* “Shrink back” = give up, retreat from faith.
* God says He “has no pleasure” in that.
* But the author affirms: *“We are not of those who shrink back… but of those who have faith.”*
  + **Encouragement:** You can endure by God’s grace.

**E. Application**

* Recommit today:
  + Restart that prayer life.
  + Resume gathering with believers.
  + Choose integrity under pressure.
* **Jesus didn’t shrink back** (Gethsemane → Calvary), and by His Spirit, neither must we.

**Conclusion: The Threefold Call**

1. **Remember** your past faithfulness – let your history with God inspire endurance.
2. **Reaffirm** your reward – eternal life is worth enduring for.
3. **Recommit** to doing God’s will today – obedience is the path of perseverance.

**Respond**

* Are you tempted to quit, to “shrink back”?
* God is saying: *“Don’t throw away your confidence!”*
* Respond in three ways:
  1. **Remember** what God has done for you.
  2. **Reaffirm** your hope in the promise of eternal life.
  3. **Recommit** to faithful obedience in one area where you’ve grown weary.