

# 7 VERSES THAT SUMMARIZE OUR FAITH

I love the book of Hebrews. It's probably my favorite book of the Bible, easily in the top three.

And tonight, I'd like to take you through my favorite passage in that book, Hebrews 10:19-25.

However, before get there, a bit of context might be in order.

## Context on the Book of Hebrews

**-Author is unknown, though likely of Jewish origin**

**-Major theme: Jesus fulfills and supersedes the customs and traditions of the Old Covenant**

**-Outline: three main sections**

**1) Superiority of the Son**

**2) Son's Fulfillment of Old Covenant Types & Shadows**

**3) Exhortation to Believers (Confidence to Persevere: Spiritual Resources, Privileges, and Requirements)**

The author of this book is unknown, though likely of Jewish origin due to the depth and breadth of Jewish symbolism.

-Major theme: Jesus fulfills and supersedes the customs and traditions of the Old Covenant

-Outline: three main sections to the book of Hebrews

1) Superiority of the Son

2) Son's Fulfillment of Old Covenant Types & Shadows

3) Exhortation to Believers

Our section - "Confidence to Persevere: Spiritual Resources, Privileges, and Requirements"

19 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

**Hebrews 10:19-25**

**Let's focus first on the verses 19-21.**

**19 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God...**

**Hebrews 10:19-21**

Here we see a summary of much of the previous 9 and half chapters this book, but there are a few things I'd like to highlight here.

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**Hebrews 10:19-21**

By saying “brothers and sisters” we can be sure that the author is writing to Christians. Most likely, Christians who were also of Jewish origin because of the symbolism used, but Christians nonetheless.

Furthermore, the use of the word “confidence” in reference to enter the Most Holy Place is telling. Since Jesus’ blood was the final fulfillment of all Old Testament regulations regarding sacrifice, we can come before God without the fear that typified Old Testament priestly service.

And lastly, since Jesus is now our high priest, we can have the deepest faith in his service as our spiritual guide and mediator. He cannot fail us or fall short.

But let’s recall that first word, “therefore,” this means that what follows these three verses will be dependent upon this summary.

We could phrase it in this way: **Because we can enter into God’s presence with confidence, through Jesus’ work...**

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**Hebrews 10:19-21**

**Shorter: Because we can enter into God’s presence with confidence, through Jesus’ work...**

**Because we can enter into God's presence with confidence, through Jesus' work, there are three things that are incumbent upon us, required of us.**

**Each of these three begins with "Let us" which is perhaps the most gentle way to command someone.**

It's like when an elementary school teacher is trying to redirect a class of young children, and if you look back at Hebrews 5, you might see a parallel there. But for now, let's proceed with the rest of our text.

**22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.**

**Hebrews 10:22-25**

“Let us draw near,” “Let us hold on,” and “Let us encourage” are how I’d simply these three commands, and for the rest of our time, I’m going to break down each of the three “Let us”’s one at a time, and I want us to look at how they correspond to our faith, to our working out of salvation.

There is so much truth here that we could unpack it for days, but in the interest of time, I’ll be brief.

**22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.**

**Hebrews 10:22**

This verse immediately follows the summary of verses 19-21 and is its culmination. Remember, verses 19-21 were essentially a summary of the gospel and the supremacy of Christ's atoning work. Thus, this is a call to make us of Jesus' work. "Since Christ has prevailed for us and cleared our path back to God, walk that path. Draw near to God."

**To me, this is an obvious picture of personal, private worship.**

**22 let us draw near to God** with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

**Hebrews 10:22**

**Private Worship - where our witness is born**

**-Drawing near to God with confidence in...**

**-His love and acceptance**

**-Our relationship/salvation**

**In our times of private worship—worship through reading the Scripture, prayer, singing, etc.--we draw near to God.**

We can do this with confidence because of the saving work of Christ, having been cleansed from our sins and the guilt thereof. This is where the grace and love of the New Covenant supersede the fear of the Old.

**Furthermore, we should be sure of this: our witness is born in our times with Jesus.** What did the Jewish leaders say of Peter and John when they were put on trial? They knew that they had been with Jesus.

If we want the world to believe in a God they cannot see, they must be able to see our God in us.

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**23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.**

**Hebrews 10:23**

So many live without hope today, and I don't just mean in the sense that many experience depression or anxiety. So many people who we would otherwise call "well-adjusted" or "mentally well" can see the paucity of the world's way of living. Our world has no idea where it's going or what it should be doing on the way.

**This verse calls us to hopeful, purposeful, divinely-directed daily living.**

**23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.**

**Hebrews 10:23**

**Daily Living - the public results of private worship**

**-“Unswervingly” - not changing or becoming weaker; steady or constant**

**-Fully aware of the destination**

That word “unswervingly,” which means “not changing or becoming weaker; steady or constant,” according to the dictionary, conveys a powerful picture to me.

Think of a driver who has only a vague idea of where they are going, as they swerve their car in and out of traffic, looking for a turn.

**This cannot be how we are perceived.**

**23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.**

**Hebrews 10:23**

**Daily Living**

**-“Unswervingly” - not changing or becoming weaker; steady or constant**

**-Fully aware of the destination**

**We must display confident hope in our Savior.  
No one will follow us if we are running scared.**

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When the news is bleak and all others are terrified, we must be able to acknowledge the peril without losing our hope in the destination that God has prepared for us, nor the path that Christ has once again laid out for us.

**Holding unswervingly to the hope we profess is the public result of private worship. Nothing undermines the gospel like a Christian who has lost hope.**

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**24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another...**

**Hebrews 10:24-25**

**Lastly, we are commended to encourage one other, not in an “there, there” way. No, this word “spur” implies an energetic urging.**

Think of a coach yelling at his players to move faster, to play harder, to give it their all. How much more so should we encourage each other to do good deeds?

And how do we do this? Through meeting together.

**24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another...**

**Hebrews 10:24-25**

**Corporate Worship - the culmination of the week**

**-Meeting together for a purpose**

**-If you come to church just to receive, you're doing it wrong.**

**-We must leave this place encouraged to act**

Corporate worship is not summed up merely in “church attendance” We are to meet together **for a purpose: mutual encouragement to do the works of Christ.**

If you come to church just to receive, you're doing it wrong.

We don't come to church just to come to church.

We come to church as a culmination of our private worship and our daily living out of our hope.

And again, our “corporate worship,” our “meeting together” isn't supposed to happen only in this place. We are to meet together in smaller groups, to encourage each other and challenge each other individually.

The physical church building is a place of culmination; the bulk of our lives is to be lived outside of it.

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**and all the more as you see the Day approaching.  
Hebrews 10:22-25**

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Hebrews 10:22-25**

**“The Day” is approaching.**

**The world is watching.**

**May they see us drawing near, holding on, and  
encouraging one another.**

## **Prayer Response**

- 1) Let us draw near to God.**
- 2) Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we have in Him.**
- 3) Let us spur one another on to good works.**

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