

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

APRIL 6TH, 2025 // HEBREWS

## HOLDING ON (HEBREWS 10:19–25) PRACTICALITY

V. 18 ended the doctrinal section of Hebrews and v. 19 begins the practical application.

- The author begins this practical section by teaching the readers that when we know who Jesus is and what He has done, we can experience His transformative power by **drawing near to Him, maintaining and growing our faith, and loving other people.**

### “I AM THE WAY...” (JOHN 14:6)

The curtain was the means through which a priest would enter God's presence. But here, the author refers to Jesus' human life as the means to enter into the presence of God.

- The privilege to enter into God's presence is no longer reserved just for the high priest but is **extended to all Believers who have found this new relationship with God through Jesus.**

### CONTRAST OF ENTERING THE HOLY PLACE

The blood of animals did not give the high priest a boldness as they entered into God's presence. They knew that if they neglected any part of the law, it meant death.

- Jesus' completed work of the cross gives us the privilege to approach God with boldness, but **we must remember that our boldness comes through the blood of Jesus.**

### A NEW AND LIVING WAY

Jesus' sacrifice that ushered us into God's presence is **“a new and living”** sacrifice compared to the previous animal sacrifices.

- A life devoted to Christ is made new as He puts to death the old self (Ephesians 4:24). **We are brought from spiritual death to life to live a new way, with purpose and direction** (Ephesians 2:1–10).

### “LET US DRAW NEAR”

We must take full advantage of the privilege to draw near to God given to us through Jesus. We draw near with a **sincere heart and pure motives**, in **full assurance of faith and confidence** in Christ and our access to Him, with our **hearts sprinkled clean** through repentance, and **bodies washed in pure water** through righteous living.

### “LET US HOLD ON”

Our ability to **“hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering”** doesn't come from our strength or trust in our faithfulness, but from the faithfulness and strength of Jesus. This does not mean we are perfect, but **we lean on and trust in the One who is perfect, Jesus.** His strength is made perfect in weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9) and He is faithful even though we are not (2 Timothy 2:13).

### “TO PROVOKE LOVE AND GOOD WORKS”

We have an obligation to our brothers and sisters and to those around us who do not know Christ.

- We **consider others as more important than ourselves** (Philippians 2:3) and **do good works** because of the grace shown to us, **in hopes that others will see the goodness of God through them** (Matthew 5:16).

### FORSAKING FELLOWSHIP

Discouragement and persecution caused the readers of Hebrews to avoid community at the time they needed it most.

- Many of us go to church when we feel we “need it” the most and neglect attending when we do not. **We must step out of our consumeristic motivation and into a desire to obey God and give to others.**

## TERRIFYING (HEBREWS 10:26–31)

### THE WILLFUL REJECTION OF JESUS' SACRIFICE

If the ones who disregarded the law of Moses died in the wilderness, how much worse will the punishment be for **those who trample the Son of God underfoot, view his sacrifice as common, and insult the Spirit of grace.**

- The author is describing individuals who have **heard the truth of Jesus' work on the cross and have deliberately rejected it.**

### CONTEXT MATTERS

The author has just concluded that **“it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins”** (10:4), but after Jesus' sacrifice, His blood atoned **“for sins forever”** (10:12).

- **If we reject Jesus and His willingness to offer Himself as a perfect sacrifice, then there “no longer remains a sacrifice” (v. 26) that is sufficient to save us.**

### A FEARFUL THING THAT WE DON'T LIKE TO DISCUSS

When we begin to truly understand the depths of our depravity and the lengths to which Jesus went to save us, we can see more clearly the justice in God's judgment toward those who reject Jesus.

- There is a **terrifying expectation of judgment for those who resist His love, refuse His salvation, despise the warnings of His Spirit, and reject His grace.**

## ENDURANCE (HEBREWS 10:32–39)

### “REMEMBER THE EARLIER DAYS...”

Endurance isn't as much a factor at the start of a race as it is after we've run for some time. The ability to endure hardships was easier when we were first saved and changed by God.

- To avoid the desire to give up when things get difficult, **we must remember how God radically transformed us and how He has delivered us from various trials and temptations.**

### STRENGTH IN COMMUNITY

**“Sometimes you were publicly exposed to taunts and afflictions, and at other times you were companions of those who were treated that way”** solidifies the strength we have in a community of Believers.

- **We consider it a great joy to suffer because of our association with Christ and the Church** (James 1:2–4; Philippians 1:29).

### “STORE UP FOR YOURSELF TREASURES IN HEAVEN”

They showed sympathy for those in prison and **“accepted with joy the confiscation of [their] possessions,”** because they knew they possessed something greater and lasting. They knew their relationship with Jesus and the promise of eternity could not be taken from them.

- **Are we willing to lose temporal earthly things for heavenly eternal things** (Matthew 6:19–20)?

- Mark 8:35–36

### “DON'T THROW AWAY YOUR CONFIDENCE”

Confidence in Christ gives us the endurance to carry on through tough times.

- The author uses the words of Isaiah 26 and Habakkuk 2 to encourage us to hold firm in our circumstances because help is on the way. **We are to trust in God's timing and His provision** because we are not “those who draw back and are destroyed...”

### LIVE BY FAITH AND OBTAIN LIFE

The righteous “will live by faith,” but the one who “draws back” God will find “no pleasure in.”

- We know God is patient and wants everyone to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9), so **this is not a lack of grace on His part, but a denial of His grace on ours.** We are to “have faith” and obtain life.

### DRAW NEAR...

- We have the privilege to **draw near to God through prayer, reading and applying His Word, and being a part of His Church.**
- We must address the motives of our heart when we approach God.
- We must also address the frequency in which we approach God.
- We must **take advantage of this great privilege!**